

Church as Family

Mission Statement

Our mission is to raise up sons and daughters of God by teaching the Gospel of Grace, bringing people to spiritual maturity, and providing a culture of true worship and family.

Church as family - creating an environment where people feel safe to be themselves and know they are loved; to inspire them to love and encourage others through relationship-building and serving one another

There are 2 ways the church is talked about in the Bible. The church as a whole – the Bride of Christ – and the local gathering of people.

The purpose of the church as a whole is to bring the culture of the Kingdom of Heaven to the Earth.

What about the purpose of a local church, or smaller assembly?

→ Since the church (whole church) is to bring about the culture of the Kingdom, the (local) church should look like the Kingdom.

1. Worship God

- **Psalm 150:1** Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament!
- **Revelation 2:4** Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

We are meant to worship God together. We are meant to worship God everywhere. But also at church.

Last week we talked about worship, so we can move on

2. To grow in maturity

- **2 Timothy 2:2** And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
- **Titus 2:1** But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:
 - Both Timothy and Titus were being raised up by Paul to become pastors of churches. Both were admonished to teach sound doctrine to bring others up to spiritual maturity.
- **Acts 2:42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Two weeks ago we talked about Spiritual Maturity, so again we can move on. Although...

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- **This verse lets us know that we are meant to do those things together**

We are actually called to grow in maturity and worship God not only individually, in our own personal time with God, but collectively, as a local gathering of believers.

3. To build up and edify each other

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- This verse has more to do with the people, not the staff or pastors.
- While this verse is about being part of a church, it is more about what we are doing when we are there.
- Consider = intentionality
- Stir up to love and good works
- Exhorting one another

1 Corinthians 14:26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

- Again, the people.
- The purpose of the gifts, used in a church, is for edification.
- **Acts 15:32** And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words.
- **These gifts are not reserved for the pulpit. Not reserved for microphones. Not reserved for public display.**

The purpose (or one of) of the church leaders:

1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; ¹¹ as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children, ¹² that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Ephesians 4:11-13 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

The church:

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

When we are at church, how can we fulfill this purpose?

1. We need to develop close relationships with our church family.
2. Encourage each other, especially in spiritual things
 - Spiritual conversations
 - Practice using the gifts – without judgment but with honesty
 - Truly loving each other
 - Avoiding unwholesome words – gossip, backbiting, harsh judgements, etc...
 - Sharing what God is revealing to us and any revelations with each other.
 - Eating together