

Why Should I go to Church?

By Joe Keim

Intro: It wasn't so long ago that a survey was done across the North American church that asked church members, "**What is the purpose of the church?**"

According to the survey, over 80% of those who responded said that **the church existed to meet their spiritual needs and the needs of their family.**

On the other hand, G.K. Chesterton wrote the often quoted statement that "**the church is the only organization in the world that exists for those who are not in it.**"

Before Rick Warren became the best-selling author of *Purpose Driven Life*, he wrote *The Purpose Driven Church*. This book has become standard for virtually all pastors and church leaders. In it he identifies five purposes of the church: **Worship, Evangelism, Fellowship, Discipleship, and Service.**

To discover the purpose of the church for ourselves, it is perhaps best to look at two things:

- ✓ What instructions did Jesus give to his disciples that were applicable to the church?
- ✓ How did the early church put into practice those instructions?

As you search the Scriptures today you will have the opportunity to see whether or not you agree with Rick Warren – and to discover how you can give an answer to the question that so often comes up, "**Why bother going to church?**"

What the Bible Teaches: Read the following Bible verses, and discuss the questions. You may want to jot down notes and thoughts on the back of this page.

Warren suggests that all of the five purposes that he identifies can be found in Acts 2:42-47. Read the passage and see if you agree.

It is clear that involvement in the church was more than a weekly worship service. Examine each Scripture to see how the church impacted participant's daily lives.

Acts 2:42-47A Generous and Growing Church

Explore it

1. What 4 activities did the early church practice? (2:42)
a) _____ c) _____
b) _____ d) _____
2. What life-style did the early believers adopt? (2:44-45) _____

3. Where did the early believers meet? (2:46) _____

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4. How often did the believers meet? (2:46) _____
5. What was the spirit of the believers in all they did (2:46-47)? _____

6. What was the growth of the early church like? (2:47) _____

Get it

1. Would you describe your church as self-centered or others-centered?
 Self-Centered Others-Centered
2. How do you think your church should be more like the early church? _____

3. How is the celebration of Communion meaningful to you? _____

4. In what ways do you see your church growing? _____

Read Acts 4:32-35.....Sharing in All Things

Explore it

1. What attitude did the believers have toward one another? (4:32) _____
2. What did some better-off Christians do from time to time? (4:34-35) _____

Get it

1. How do the members of your church care for each other's physical needs? _____

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Romans 15:25-26.....One Church Helping Another Church

Explore it

1. What was Paul taking to Jerusalem? (15:26) _____
2. Why were the churches in Macedonia and Achaia helping the saints out in Jerusalem _____

Get it

1. What sacrifice can you make this week to help another believer who is struggling with a burden? _____

Ephesians 4:11-16.....Spiritual Gifts For The Benefit Of The Church

Explore it

1. With what kind of people did God give to fill the early church? (4:11)
a) _____ d) _____
b) _____ e) _____
c) _____
2. In one sentence what was the purpose of spiritual gifts? (4:12-13) _____

3. What results from gifted believers equipping the church? (4:14) _____

4. What are some other results that come from gifted believers equipping the church? (4:15-16) _____

What is the Purpose of the Church?

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1. How have you benefited from the Christian leadership in your church? _____

2. Is your church hurting because you are not using the gift(s) that God has given you? Yes No
3. What service can you offer your church to help build up the body of Christ? _____

Luke 10:1-3.....Sending out the Seventy

Explore it

1. In what manner were the seventy followers sent out? (10:1) _____
2. According to Jesus, why were His followers to pray for more workers? (10:2) _____

3. To what did Jesus liken His followers? (10:3) _____

Matthew 28:19-20.....The Great Commission

Explore it

1. Where did Jesus tell His disciples to go? (28:19) _____
2. What three activities were the disciples to be involved in? (28:19-20)
a) _____ c) _____
b) _____
3. With what words of comfort did Jesus leave His disciples? (28:20) _____

What is the Purpose of the Church?

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1. What does it mean to "make disciples"? _____
2. What role do you have in making disciples? _____
3. How can knowing that Jesus is always with us make a difference in our job of making disciple? _____

What I Believe: Take ten minutes for silent reflection and thought. Ask yourself what you believe about the purpose of the church and why a believer should be involved in a church.

"What is the purpose of the church and why be a part of a church?"

Write your final response here: _____

Therefore: *Jesus said His followers should Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). One of the first steps in making disciples is being ready and able to share the reason for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15), in other words, knowing what we believe, why, and then being able to share it. Sharing your faith is important. This week, find someone—it can be anyone—and communicate your belief about this issue. If you have an unchurched/unreached friend whom you can share with - all the better.*

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