

WHY SHOULD I GO TO CHURCH?

By Joe Keim

Introduction

Not long ago, a survey was taken across many churches in North America. Church members were asked: “What is the purpose of the church?”

More than 80% answered that the church exists mainly to meet their spiritual needs and the needs of their families.

But author G.K. Chesterton once said:

“The church is the only organization in the world that exists for those who are not in it.”

Before Rick Warren wrote *The Purpose Driven Life*, he wrote *The Purpose Driven Church*. In that book, he listed five major purposes of the church:

- Worship
- Evangelism
- Fellowship
- Discipleship
- Service

But what does the Bible teach?

To understand the true purpose of the church, we should ask two important questions:

1. What instructions did Jesus give His followers?
2. How did the early church put those instructions into practice?

As you study these Scriptures, think carefully about this important question:

“Why should I go to church?”

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

Read the following Bible passages and answer the questions.

You may also want to write additional thoughts and notes as you study.

Read Acts 2:42-47 - A Generous and Growing Church

1. What four activities did the early church continue in? (Acts 2:42)

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____

2. What kind of lifestyle did the early believers adopt? (Acts 2:44-45)

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

4. How often did they meet together? (Acts 2:46)

5. Describe the spirit and attitude of the believers. (Acts 2:46-47)

6. What was happening to the church? (Acts 2:47)

4. Would you describe your church as: ☐ Self-centered ☐ Others-centered

5. In what ways should your church become more like the early church?

6. How is Communion meaningful to you personally?

7. In what ways do you see your church growing spiritually?

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

1. What attitude did the believers have toward one another? (Acts 4:32)

2. What did some believers do to help others in need? (Acts 4:34-35)

3. How do members in your church help care for one another's physical needs?

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

1. What was Paul bringing to Jerusalem? (Romans 15:25-26)

2. Why were the churches in Macedonia and Achaia helping believers in Jerusalem?

3. What sacrifice could you make this week to help another believer who is struggling?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16 - Spiritual Gifts for the Benefit of the Church

1. What kinds of leaders did God give to the church? (Ephesians 4:11)

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

2. What was the purpose of these spiritual gifts and leaders? (Ephesians 4:12-13)

3. What happens when believers are properly equipped? (Ephesians 4:14)

4. What other results come when the church is strengthened and equipped? (Ephesians 4:15-16)

5. How have church leaders helped you grow spiritually?

6. Is your church missing something because you are not using the gifts God gave you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. What service or ministry could you offer to help build up the church?

Read Luke 10:1-3 - Jesus Sends Out the Seventy

1. How did Jesus send out the seventy disciples? (Luke 10:1)

2. Why did Jesus tell His followers to pray for more workers? (Luke 10:2)

3. To what did Jesus compare His followers? (Luke 10:3)

Read Matthew 28:19-20 - The Great Commission

1. Where did Jesus command His followers to go? (Matthew 28:19)

2. What three things were the disciples commanded to do? (Matthew 28:19-20)

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

3. What comforting promise did Jesus give His followers? (Matthew 28:20)

4. What does it mean to “make disciples”?

5. What part do you personally have in making disciples?

6. How does knowing Jesus is always with us encourage us in serving Him?

What I Believe

Take several minutes to quietly think and pray about what you believe concerning the church.

What is the purpose of the church, and why should believers be involved in one?

Write your thoughts below:

Final Thoughts

Jesus commanded His followers to:

- go,
- make disciples,
- teach God’s Word,
- love one another,
- and serve others.

The church is far more than just attending a service once a week.

The church is:

- a spiritual family,
- a place of worship,

- a place of growth,
- a place of encouragement,
- and a place where believers work together to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:19-20: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...”

1 Peter 3:15: “Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you...”

This week, look for an opportunity to share with someone:

- why you believe in Jesus,
- why the church matters,
- and why following Christ is important.

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