

What Is The Purpose Of The Church ?

(The Purpose of The Church Series - #1)

June 10, 2007

Review

Our 2007 Theme is "Here Is The Church"

Our first series was "The Cause We Plead"

Our second series was "How To Become A Member Of The Church"

Introduction to the series...

If Jesus Christ is the model for an individual Christian, what model do we have for The Church?

Berea? Jerusalem ? Corinth?

"BEING" The Church is much more than...

Remember this from our 3/18 "Understand the Church" lesson:

Greek *EKKLESIA* is translated "church" or "assembly"

From *EK* - "out of" + *KLESIS* - "a calling"

The church is a "called out" group

Greek political bodies were an *ekklesia* - assembly (*Acts 19:39*)

Jesus said, "I will build MY *ekklesia* - church (*Matt. 16:18*)"

So... What is the Church "called out" for?

To understand the PURPOSE of the Church,
we must understand what the Church IS

Ephesians 1:22,23a

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his _____ ,

1 Corinthians 12:27

*Now you are the _____ of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.*

Ephesians 1:22,23

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the _____ of him who fills everything in every way.,

Fullness: *pleroma* = fulfillment, rounding out, completion

Acts 1:1

In one sense it is the whole lesson of the Book of Acts that the life of Jesus goes on *in His Church*. Dr. John Foster tells how an inquirer from Hinduism came to an Indian Christian. All unaided he had read the New Testament, and the story had fascinated him and Christ had laid his spell upon him. "Then he read on... and felt he had entered into a new world. In the gospels it was Jesus, His works and His suffering. In the Acts... what the disciples did and thought and taught had taken the place that Christ had occupied. The Church continued where Jesus had left off at His death. "Therefore," said this man to me, "I must belong to *the Church that carries on the life of Christ.*" The book of Acts tells of the Church that carries on the life of Christ.

William Barclay, *The Acts of the Apostles*

So... What is the Church "called out" for?
