



Why did you come to church tonight? Has it become just something you do on Wednesdays and Sundays? Tonight, we are going to be considering the biblical purpose of church. Specifically, the purpose of the local church.

Church is not primarily meant to \_\_\_\_\_ you; it is meant to \_\_\_\_\_! (Eph. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:20-21; 1 Peter 4:11).

**Some common but, inaccurate (primary) church targets:**

(Primary is a key word here)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Problem = When unbelievers are the target audience of church, it assumes that unbelievers recognize their own \_\_\_\_\_ (John 6).
2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Problem = When believers are the target audience, it tends towards the neglect of \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Purpose of the Church:**  
*First and foremost, the church exists to bring glory to God (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14; 3:21; 1 Peter 4:11). Worship should be central to the activity of the church (Acts 2:42-47; 20:7; John 4:24; 1 Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10). I believe the church is part of God gathering all things under the authority of Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:9-10, 22-23) by disciplining and edifying believers (Acts 2:42-46; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 6:2; Matt. 28:19-20) and evangelizing all nations (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 8:4; Col. 4:2-6; 1 Peter 3:15).*

\_\_\_\_\_ God in church pleases Him.

1. The church meets to exalt Christ in worship (Acts 2:42; Psalm 103; Col. 3:15-16).

- Worship is an \_\_\_\_\_ response to who God is (Psalm 103).
  - Worship is an outward \_\_\_\_\_ to God's people. (Col. 3:15-16)
2. The church meets to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ to the world (1 Cor. 12:12-27).
  3. The church meets to reflect Christ to \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:15-16).

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ unbelievers into the church pleases God.

1. Christ told the church to “preach the gospel” to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 28:19-20; Mk 16:15; Acts 1:8).
2. Paul modeled “house to \_\_\_\_\_” (door to door) witnessing (Acts 20:20-21).
3. James described pure \_\_\_\_\_ as ministering to those in need. (James 1:27a; James 2).

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (building up) believers in church pleases God.

1. Individual church members (you) should use their \_\_\_\_\_ to build up the church (Rom 12:4-8; 1 Cor 12:7-11; Eph 4:11).
2. Individual church members should consistently come to church to remember what \_\_\_\_\_ for them (1 Cor. 11:24-26).

**Church is not primarily meant to please you; it is meant to please God!** Why is going to church important? We need to worship God with other believers and be taught God's Word in order to grow spiritually. It is not just a suggestion. God tells us in Hebrews 10:24, “Not Forsaking the assembly of yourselves together... but exhorting one another,” Church is where we worship God and edify other believers. Our hearts are encouraged and equipped to be sent out to evangelize the lost. The Bible tells us that God is glorified through worship, evangelism, and edification.