

THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
MATTHEW 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Introduction:

1. As Jesus was about to ascend back to heaven after His resurrection, He met with His church and gave her, what has become known as "The Great Commission."
2. This commission was not given to the whole of religion or Christianity. It was given to His church and His church only.
3. Educators, social workers, and religionists have promoted a program of political, economic, and social reform as the main mission of churches in the world, but this is without Biblical warrant and often anti-Biblical in character.
4. We need to ask ourselves, "What is the mission and ministry of the church?"

I. THE FIRST, AND FOREMOST, MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH IS TO GLORIFY GOD. **Romans 11:36** *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

A. So fundamental is this duty that if faithfully performed, there will also be carrying out of the other purposes of the church.

B. How do we glorify God?

1. By worship (honor, reverence, homage in thought, feeling, or action). **John 4:23-24** *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*

2. By praise and prayer. **Psalms 50:23** *Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; and to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God.*

3. By living like a Christian. **1 Peter 2:9** *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...*

4. By being a living testimony for Him. **John 15:8** *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

II. ANOTHER MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH IS TO EDIFY ITSELF.

Ephesians 4:11-16

A. This means to teach the members the Word of God so that they may stand against the heresies propagated by false churches.

B. There must be a building up of the church in Christ. **Colossians 2:6-7** *As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.*

C. Public church services are intended to do this, but the individuals are also, by private devotions and Bible study, to build themselves up in the most holy faith. **Jude 20** *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit...*

I have had people, especially young ones, remark that the church is boring and has no programs to keep them interested. First, the church is not here to keep you amused and glorified. We are to only glorify God. Secondly, if you are bored in this church, perhaps you need to be saved and find the true meaning of the abundant life.

III. ANOTHER MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH IS TO PURIFY ITSELF.

Ephesians 5:25-27 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

A. There is a purging that the Father performs. **John 15:2** *Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

1. This is accomplished through Divine chastening. **Hebrews 12:10** *For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.*

B. There is a purging that the believer should perform. **2 Corinthians 7:1** *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

C. There is also a purging the church is to do. **1 Corinthians 5:4-5** *In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

1. Divisions, heresies, immoralities are mentioned as causes for discipline.

2. Only of the true church will it be said in the day of Jesus' return, *His wife has made herself ready.* (**Revelation 19:7**)

IV. ANOTHER MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH IS TO EDUCATE HER

MEMBERS. **Matthew 28:19** *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

A. We are to disciple, baptize, and teach.

B. Sunday School, worship, Wednesday night Bible Study, etc..

C. Especially should pastors and preachers be better educated, and this should be the work of the church.

V. ANOTHER MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH IS TO EVANGELIZE THE

WORLD. **Acts 1:8** *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

A. Notice this is fifth on the list. If a church is not glorifying God, edifying its members, purifying itself and educating its members, how can she evangelize the world?

B. The Scriptures do not direct us to convert the world, but simply spread the gospel.

Mark 16:15 *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*

C. The church is the debtor to the whole world and is under obligation to give the whole world an opportunity to hear the gospel and accept Jesus as Savior.

D. It is impossible for any one church to evangelize the world, but we can do it when we send forth missionaries, cooperate with other churches in world-wide evangelism, and in contributing money to help other churches send out missionaries.

VI. ANOTHER MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH IS TO ACT AS A RESTRAINING AND ENLIGHTENING FORCE IN THE WORLD. **Titus 2:7-8** ... *in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.*

A. By the influence and testimony of the church, lawlessness is held back. Imagine what the world would be like without the morality and beliefs of godly people.

B. By the church's testimony they make known God's requirements of man, and the need of repentance and regeneration.

C. To this end God has made His church the custodians of the truth! **2 Corinthians 5:19** ... *that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

VII. THE FINAL MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH IS TO PROMOTE ALL THAT IS GOOD. **Galatians 6:10** *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

A. While the believer is to separate from all worldly alliances, he is to support all causes that seek to promote the social, economic, political and educational welfare of the community.

B. The primary duty is toward fellow church members, but we also have a duty toward the rest of the world.

We should devote ourselves to social services on the same principle on which a man picks up a sharp nail he finds in the street on the way to work. It is one thing to devote his entire time to ridding the streets of nails, and another to remove such nails as he can without interfering with his main task.

C. The work of reformation must be subject to the work of evangelization.

D. All acts of Christian charity must bear witness to Jesus, or they're absolutely useless.

Conclusion:

1. The mission and ministry of the church can only be fulfilled by those who are willing to fulfill it.

2. It is not because we lack the people, or the power, but because we lack commitment and the necessary love for Jesus.