

THE UNIVERSAL AND LOCAL CHURCH



Universal Church

The universal church is the assembly of ALL people (anywhere and anytime) who have trusted only in Jesus for salvation, repented of their sinful lifestyles, and entered into an eternal relationship with Him.

Local Church

The local church is a local assembly of people who have trusted only in Jesus for salvation, repented of their sinful lifestyles, and entered into an eternal relationship with Him.

Marks of a Healthy Local Church



Biblical Theology

"He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it."

Titus 1:9



Biblical Leadership

A description of Biblical leadership can be found in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9.



Church Discipline

"...Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins."

James 5:20



Glorifies God

We were created to glorify God, therefore an assembly of Christ-followers that does not glorify God would be far from healthy.



Reliance on Prayer

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Philippians 4:6



Spiritual Maturity of Members

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."

Ephesians 4:15



Biblical Practice of the Ordinances

"So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord."

1 Corinthians 11:27



Unity Among Members

"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Ephesians 4:16



Organic Evangelism

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."

1 Corinthians 9:22



Christ-Centered Worship

"Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Luke 4:8



THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH



“...Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

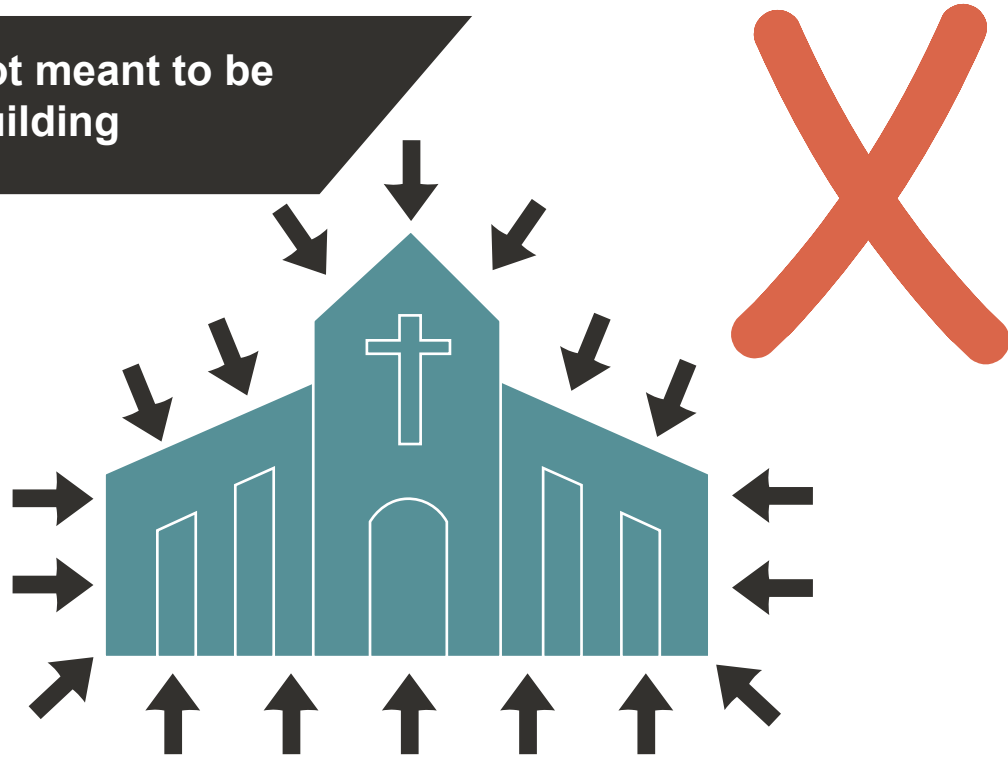
Matthew 28:18-20



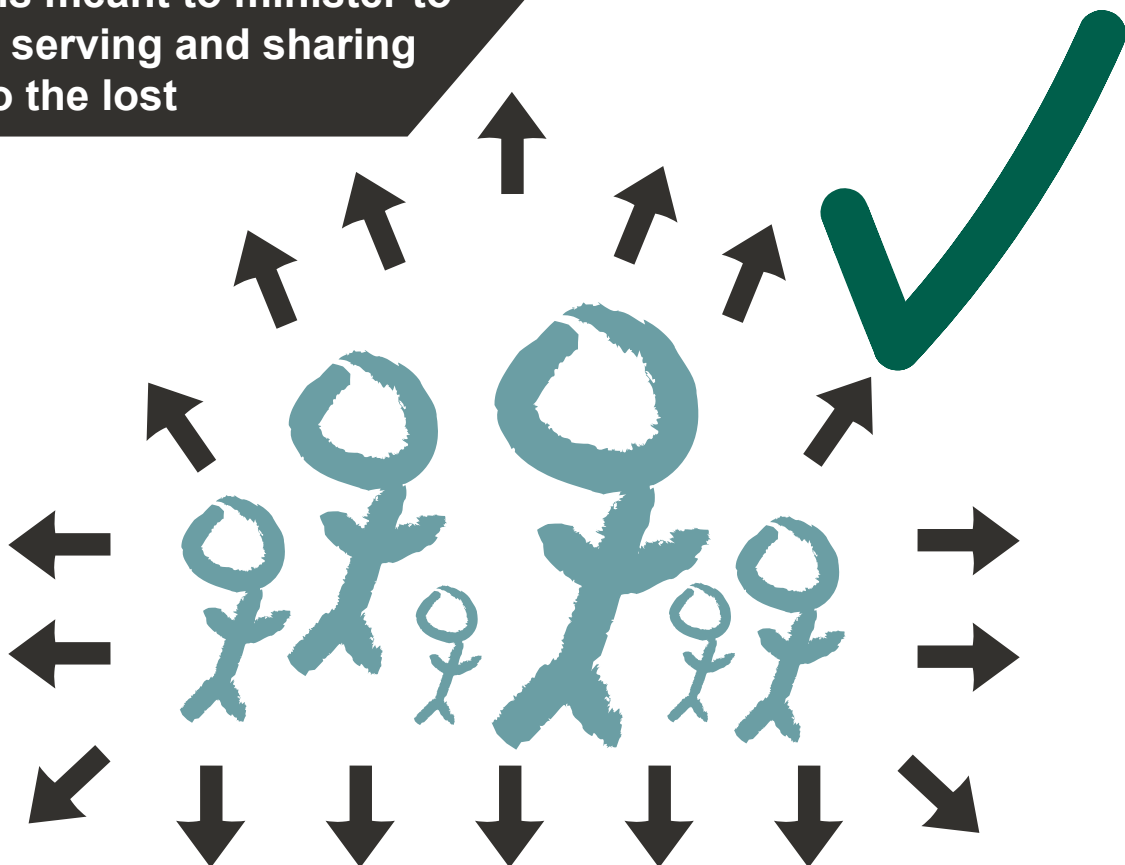


THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The Church is not meant to be restricted to a building



The Church is meant to minister to the world by serving and sharing the gospel to the lost





THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The Church's mission is not only to make disciples of all nations, but also to glorify God.

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

1 Corinthians 10:31

“In him we were also chosen... in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.”

Ephesians 1:11-12

How can we glorify God?

By genuinely worshipping God

For most people, the most familiar way to glorify God is through our worship. Rory Noland wrote, “We must make worship a top priority because worship is God’s ultimate priority. God is passionate about His glory... God’s ultimate purpose for everything He does is always His glory.”¹

By representing Jesus to a fallen world

We can glorify God by showing the world how Jesus has changed us. Our words and deeds model to the world what following Jesus means in our daily lives. Paul writes of the importance of not being conformed to the world (Romans 12:2) and that we are new creations in Christ (Galatians 2:20).

By developing God-honoring relationships

The Bible describes various relationships that honor and glorify God. One such relationship is that of a husband and wife. The relationship between a husband and wife is a reflection of Jesus’ relationship with the Church. Christian couples can glorify God by accurately representing Jesus and the Church through their speech and actions.



THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

The ordinances of the Church are baptism and communion. These are ceremonies that do not save the participants but are important for the life of the believer.

Baptism



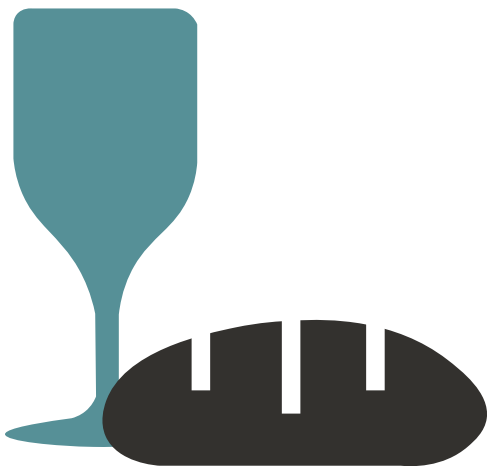
Who: Baptism is only for believers

When: Believers are to be baptized following our conversion to Christianity

Why: Believers are baptized because Jesus commanded us to and it symbolizes our association with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection

Process: The person being baptized is immersed in water and then brought up again, symbolizing our new birth as well as our association with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection as stated above

Communion



Who: Communion is only for believers

When: As often as the church leaders determine at each local church

Why: Believers participate in communion in order to remember Jesus' death, have unity with other believers, and declare our dedication to Jesus

Process: The people participating in communion first eat bread which symbolizes Christ's body and then drink wine which symbolizes Christ's blood



THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF THE CHURCH

The Spirit of God gracefully gives members of the Church various gifts which can be used to accomplish the Church's mission.



Administration

The gift of being goal oriented and able to direct other believers to accomplish that goal



Discernment

Being gifted in recognizing false teachers



Evangelism

Although all Christians are expected to share their faith with unbelievers, some are especially gifted to do so



Exhortation

Being gifted in encouraging other members of the Church



Faith

People with the gift of faith trust in God to keep His promises in nearly all circumstances



Giving

People who joyfully give to others their time or material possessions



Healing

The Apostles had the ability to heal people of their illnesses but it is debated whether or not Christians can have this gift today



Knowledge

People with the gift of knowledge are better able to understand and teach spiritual truth



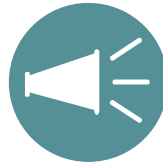
Mercy

Being gifted in mercy helps Christians show compassion and understanding to those experiencing trials



Miracles

As with healing, the Apostles had the ability to perform miracles but it is debated whether or not Christians can have this gift today



Prophecy

Believers with this gift are able to discern God's will



Serving

Being gifted in serving is having a heart for helping people in need



Shepherding

Similar to administration, the gift of shepherding (or leadership) helps believers lead other Christians



Teaching

People with the gift of teaching are equipped to study the Bible and in turn teach it to others



Tongues

The gift of tongues allows believers to speak in languages unknown to them, it is debated whether or not Christians today can receive this gift



Wisdom

The gift of wisdom is similar to the gift of knowledge except the gift of wisdom focuses more on the application of spiritual truth



THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

Elders vs Deacons

Responsibilities

Elders are responsible for “prayer and the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4). Elders lead their congregation through teaching and praying.



The position of deacon was created in Acts 6:1-7 in order to allow the Church leaders to oversee the daily needs of the Church.

Qualifications

“Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.”

1 Timothy 3:2-4



“...deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.”

1 Timothy 3:8-9

Miscellaneous

Other titles that the Bible gives for elders include overseers, pastors, and bishops. The position of elder is only able to be filled by men who fit the Biblical qualifications.



Unlike elders, the position of deacon can be filled by both men and women.

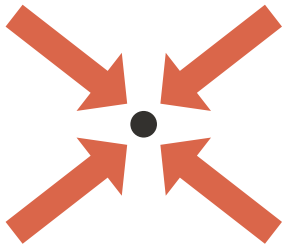


THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH



Upward: Worship God

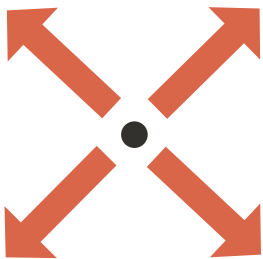
The Church exists for God's glory. If we make disciples or sanctify one another but neglect our Creator, we have missed the entire purpose of our existence. Everything else we do as a Church stems from our relationship with God and our hunger to worship and glorify Him.



Inward: Sanctify One Another

"It is God's will that you should be sanctified..."
1 Thessalonians 4:3

Bill Hull - "The discipling church is at least three things: a hospital for the spiritually sick, a greenhouse for the growth of new believers, and a training center for the eager and well."²



Outward: Evangelism to Unbelievers

Evangelism results from a love for God and a love for people. Since we believe that the consequence of our sin is eternal separation from God, it is our duty to tell the world the great news of Jesus' saving work on the cross.

Mark Dever - "We should all evangelize. We should all tell the Good News about Jesus. We should do so with honesty, urgency, and joy, living a life that backs up our message - and doing it all for the glory of God."³



THE UNITY AND LOVE OF THE CHURCH

The world will know that we are followers of Jesus because of...



Our Unity *John 17:23*



Our Love *John 13:35*



Discipleship

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."
2 Timothy 2:2



Accountability

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
1 Thessalonians 5:11



The Body of Christ

"...in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."
Romans 12:5



Sharing Possessions

"They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need."
Acts 2:45



Love One Another

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."
Romans 12:10



Love Our Enemies

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil... If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge... but leave room for God's wrath."
Romans 9:17-19



Love the Needy

"Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited."
Romans 12:16



Love God

"...let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."
1 John 4:7

