

Christian Doctrine

The Church (Part 6)

The Church's Mission

Ministries of the Church

In our previous lesson, we looked at how the church's main goal is to worship God by bringing Him glory in all that it does. In this lesson, let us look at the core ministries the church is intended to do as it seeks to bring God glory:

- Making disciples (called "discipleship"). The church is to assist believers to grow in their faith and become mature in their walk with the Lord (**Matt. 28:19; Eph. 4:12-16**). Good discipleship will:
 - Teach believers God's Word (**Matt. 28:20; Col. 1:28**).
 - Equip (prepare) believers for ministry (**Eph. 4:12**).
 - Edify (build up) believers (**Eph. 4:12; Col. 2:7**).
 - Hold each other accountable (accountability helps believers to avoid sin and encourages holy living – **Gal. 6:1; Eph. 5:27**).
- Assisting its members (in their physical needs). The New Testament church members gave of their abundance so that it could be used to meet the needs of other members (**Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; I Cor. 16:1**).
- Evangelizing the world. The church was created to grow and multiply. In the early church, the concept of sharing the gospel with unbelievers was seen as a natural response to coming to faith in Christ (**Acts 2:41; 4:2; 8:4; Rom. 10:15; I Cor. 15:1-4; II Cor. 5:20**). There are two aspects of evangelism:
 - Local outreach - Reaching our community (**Acts 1:8**)
 - Missions - Reaching the world (**Matt. 28:19**)
- Reflecting Christ to the world. The world should see Christ lived out in each member of the church. This is accomplished when believers :
 - Stand for truth (**John 18:37; I Tim. 3:15; Jude 3**).
 - Have a godly testimony (**Phil. 2:15; I Pet. 2:12**).

When a church is making these ministries a focal point of its mission, God will use it to make an impact on the world.