

# WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH? A Question of function.

Dec 8, 2024

## I. THE PURPOSE IN RELATION TO ISRAEL.

- A. The Church and Israel Are Two Distinct Entities.
- B. The Church Was Established After Israel's Rejection of Their Messiah.
- C. A Purpose for Israel Was To Be a Witness.
- D. Israel's Non-Nation Status and No Longer God's Witness.
- E. The Church Becomes God's Witness.

## II. THE PURPOSE DESCRIBED IN THE EARLY CHURCH. (Acts 2:42)

- A. What Was Practiced.
  - 1. 4 Practices Named: a) the Apostles' Doctrine, B) Fellowship, C) Breaking of Bread, and D) Prayers
  - 2. The 4 Practices Described:
    - a) The Apostles' Doctrine
    - b) Fellowship
    - c) Breaking of Bread
    - d) Prayers
- B. How They Were Practiced: Devoutly & Continually.

## III. THE PURPOSE OF EDIFYING THE CHURCH. (Eph 4:11-16)

- A. The Giver Is Christ. 11a
- B. What Christ Has Given. 11b
  - 1. Four Kinds of People Are Christ's Gift to the Church: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, & Pastor/Teachers.
  - 2. Two Other Issues: That of Church Office and Existence Today.
- C. Why These 4 Kinds of People Were Given to the Church. 12
  - 1. A Three-Fold Progression — "for the Equipping...for the Work...for the Edifying...."
  - 2. So Why Has Christ Given Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, and Pastor-Teachers to the Church?
- D. How Long Does This Edifying Work Continue. 13-16
  - 1. It Is Corporate and Not Individual. 13a
  - 2. It Is a Process and Not Instantaneous. 13a
  - 3. It Continues Until Certain Goals Are Achieved: Unity, Maturity, & Conformity. 13b
  - 4. It Continues Until the Results Are Evident: Doctrinal Stability (14), Truth Speaking (15), & Dependence (16; 1Cor 12:12-31). 14-16

## IV. OTHER PURPOSES FOR THE CHURCH.

- A. The Purpose of Stirring Up. (Heb 10:24-25)
- B. The Purpose for a Collection. (Acts 2, 5; Rom 15?; 1Cor 16; Phil)
- C. The Purpose of Worship.