

# Purpose of the church of Christ

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## Introduction

1. Ephesians 4:11-16
2. Many think the purpose of the church is to entertain them and their friends.
3. The church is not
  - a. In the entertainment business, i.e. not adults in worship or children
  - b. A political entity
  - c. The church is not a social club, though many treat it that way
4. The church has three primary purposes
  - a. To take the Gospel to the world
  - b. To keep the saved, saved
  - c. To help the poor.
5. Let's briefly look at each of these areas.

## II Discussion

1. The church is to take the Gospel into the world
  - a. This was the mission of the apostles Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8
  - b. The church partook of this mission
    - i. The church at Jerusalem partook of this mission Acts 8:1-4
    - ii. The church at Antioch partook of this mission Acts 13:1-3; 14:27-28
    - iii. The church in Thessalonica partook of this mission 1 Thessalonians 1:2-8
  - c. The Wisdom of God is to be made known through the church Ephesians 3:10
  - d. God is to be glorified in the church throughout the ages Ephesians 3:21
  - e. The need of this work
    - i. Because all are under sin Romans 3:23
    - ii. The only way of Salvation is through the Gospel Romans 1:16
    - iii. Words were told Cornelius to be saved Acts 11:14
    - iv. Without the Gospel the world is lost and without hope Ephesians 2:12
2. The church is to grow herself (Keep the saved, saved).
  - a. We are to grow 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 1:5-12; 3:18
  - b. We are to become mature Ephesians 4:14-16
  - c. We are to practice with our armor Ephesians 6:10-18
  - d. We are to exercise Hebrews 5:12-14
  - e. We are to be heeding what we hear Hebrews 2:1-2
3. We are to help the poor
  - a. Who is my neighbor is the answer to the parable Luke 10:25-37
  - b. We are to good to all men Galatians 6:10
  - c. We are to remember the poor Galatians 2:10;
  - d. We are to visit the fatherless and the widows James 1:27
  - e. We are to minister to the poor Romans 12:13; 15:21-27
  - f. This is what we are to be addicted 1 Corinthians 16:15

## III Conclusion

1. If the church will busy herself with these three areas, division will not be part of the problem.
2. We will have the mission of the church ever before us and we will be doing our work 1 Corinthians 15:58
3. Are you working to help or hinder the church
4. If you are not with the church you are against the church,
5. Become part of the church now!