

Sermon Notes

The Doctrine of the Church The Purpose and Mission of the Church

- Why do we exist and what are we supposed to do?
- The regulating law or rule or principle for the church, in her life, her purpose, and her mission, is the Word of God.
- When we ask, why do we exist? We are asking, what is our purpose?
- When we ask, what are we supposed to do? We are asking, what is our mission?
- This is foundational to our entire ecclesiology.

I. The Church's Ultimate Purpose is the Glorify God through Jesus Christ

- A. God's ultimate purpose is always His own glory ~ Isa. 48:9-11
- B. His ultimate purpose in redemption is His own glory ~ Eph. 1:3-14
- C. His purpose in redemption is saving a people for Himself is His glory and praise ~ 1 Pet. 2:4-5, 9

II. The Church Glorifies God by Being a Worshiping Community

- A. We glorify God, both now and for eternity, by being a worshiping community ~1 Pet. 2:5; Jn. 4:24
- B. Worship is the pinnacle of our existence; it is why we were created and redeemed! ~1 Pet. 2:9; Isa. 43:7
- C. The Church must take her delightful duty to worship seriously
Worship is about God, not us! ~ Rev. 4:11

III. The Church Glorifies God by Being a Proclaiming Community

- A. We glorify God by the proclamation of His Word
1 Pet. 2:9; 1:23-25
- B. Proclamation, or Preaching, is the primary means by which God saves sinners and builds up His people, strengthening their faith.
 - 1. Preaching is the biblically mandated method of communicating God's Word 2 Tim. 3:16-4:2
 - 2. Preaching puts the Triune God, in all of His glory, on display like nothing else! Isa. 40:9; 52:7; Gal. 3:1
 - 3. Preaching is the primary God-ordained means of demonstrating His sovereign power in bringing sinners to salvation. Rom. 10:13-17; 1 Cor. 1:17-2:5
- C. Proclamation in our witness, evangelism and missions is an extension in our proclamation to our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth. Acts 1:8; Rom. 10:13-17



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D. We cannot glorify God as we ought unless we proclaim Him as He is.

An Excursus on what preaching must be: Six elements necessary in feeding the flock

1. A Thoroughly Biblical feeding (Jer. 3:15; 2 Tim. 4:2)
2. Expository feeding
3. Christ-Centered, Gospel Feeding
4. Doctrinal feeding
5. Applicatory feeding (2 Tim. 4:2-4)
6. Spirit-empowered feeding (1 Cor 2:1-5; Mic. 3:8)

IV. The Church Glorifies God Through Missions, Evangelism and Mercy

A. Missions and Evangelism

1. John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad*, “Missions exists because worship doesn’t.”
2. God’s mission is that He would be glorified and worshiped among all the nations. Num. 14:21; Hab. 2:14
3. God’s mission makes Him a missionary God. And our missionary God has a mission strategy. At the heart of God’s mission strategy is the incarnation of His Son, sending Him into the world.
Isa. 42:1-4, 6-7; **49:6**
John 6:46; 7:28-29; 16:26-28; **17:8**
4. The Father’s mission does not end with sending the Son. John 20:21
5. All of us are ambassadors for Christ...
2 Cor. 5:20; Mt. 9:36-38; 3 John 7-8

B. Mercy

1. The Church, as God’s new humanity, new race, new nation, is now to be the model of the love and mercy of Jesus Christ Jn. 13:15; 13:34
2. This means that we love, nurture and serve one another
Rom. 12:9-21; Gal. 6:10
3. This means that we love and serve those outside the household of faith
This is part of our evangelism and missions as well.
Gal. 6:10; Jas. 2:13-17; 1 Jn. 3:17-18; Prov. 14:31; 19:17
4. The Church glorifies God as it ministers mercy to those inside and outside the household of faith, reflecting the compassion of God in Christ.

Conclusion

The Church exists to glorify God in Christ. We glorify God through being a worshiping and proclaiming and serving community.

Our mission to proclaim the gospel to the nations and our neighbors and do good to as many as we can, so that we can show and tell of the love of God in Christ.

