

The House of God **Rediscovering It's purpose**

Part 2

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"Scripture quotations taken from the Amplified Bible."

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In understanding the purpose of the church, we must first understand what the church is.... In defining the word Church, the greek word is Ecclesia. It simply means

The church, is an assembly, a group of people called out by God for a special task.

(Note: In the New Testament, the word "Church" never refers to a meeting place, it always refers to the people who meet together.

When people have asked me the question, "Is church necessary". Their fundamental premise is flawed. What they are actually trying to ask me is permission to not come to church. By asking this question, they are in effect trying to come to a conclusion that justifies their rebellion against God's word.

There are two references to the church in the Bible. The Universal church and the local church.

The word "Church" was actually used only 2 times in the Gospels. Matthew 16:18 (Universal) and Matthew 18:17 (Local)

Jesus is the Head.

(Jesus is the head over all things. Everything in the entire church is at His disposal and under His control. Nobody else can contest His authority.)

Ephesians 1:22

Amplified Bible (AMP)

22 And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church],

PRAY

Let's pray that God will reveal Jesus to us.

Ephesians 1:16-23

Amplified Bible (AMP)

16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.

17 [For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him,

18 By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know *and* understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones),

19 And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable *and* unlimited *and* surpassing greatness of His power in *and* for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength,

20 Which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places],

21 Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age *and* in this world, but also in the age *and* the world which are to come.

22 And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church],

23 Which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself].

“Playing your part”

Have you ever wondered if you are playing the part God has called you to play? Often times, believers truly don't walk in the very things God has outlined in His Word in regards to playing our part in the Body of Christ.

Romans 12:3-8

Amplified Bible (AMP)

3 For by the grace (unmerited favor of God) given to me I warn everyone among you not to estimate *and* think of himself more highly than he ought [not to have an exaggerated opinion of his own importance], but to rate

his ability with sober judgment, each according to the degree of faith apportioned by God to him.

4 For as in one physical body we have many parts (organs, members) and all of these parts do not have the same function *or* use,

5 So we, numerous as we are, are one body in Christ (the Messiah) and individually we are parts one of another [mutually dependent on one another].

6 Having gifts (faculties, talents, qualities) that differ according to the grace given us, let us use them: [He whose gift is] prophecy, [let him prophesy] according to the proportion of his faith;

7 [He whose gift is] practical service, let him give himself to serving; he who teaches, to his teaching;

8 He who exhorts (encourages), to his exhortation; he who contributes, let him do it in simplicity *and* liberality; he who gives aid *and* superintends, with zeal *and* singleness of mind; he who does acts of mercy, with genuine cheerfulness *and* joyful eagerness.

1 Corinthians 12:4-12

Amplified Bible (AMP)

4 Now there are distinctive varieties *and* distributions of endowments (gifts, [a]extraordinary powers distinguishing certain Christians, due to the power of divine grace operating in their souls by the Holy Spirit) and they vary, but the [Holy] Spirit remains the same.

5 And there are distinctive varieties of service *and* ministrations, but it is the same Lord [Who is served].

6 And there are distinctive varieties of operation [of working to accomplish things], but it is the same God Who inspires *and* energizes them all in all.

7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the [Holy] Spirit [the evidence, the spiritual illumination of the Spirit] for good *and* profit.

8 To one is given in *and* through the [Holy] Spirit [the power to speak] a message of wisdom, and to another [the power to express] a word of knowledge *and* understanding according to the same [Holy] Spirit;

9 To another [b]wonder-working] faith by the same [Holy] Spirit, to another the extraordinary powers of healing by the one Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles, to another prophetic insight (c]the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose); to another the ability to discern *and* distinguish between [the utterances of true] spirits [and false ones], to another various kinds of [unknown] tongues, to another the ability to interpret [such] tongues.

11 All these [gifts, achievements, abilities] are inspired *and* brought to pass by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, Who apportions to each person individually [exactly] as He chooses.

12 For just as the body is a unity and yet has many parts, and all the parts, though many, form [only] one body, so it is with Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

Ephesians 4:8-16

Amplified Bible (AMP)

8 Therefore it is said, When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive [He led a train of vanquished foes] and He bestowed gifts on men.

9 [But He ascended?] Now what can this, He ascended, mean but that He had previously descended from [the heights of] heaven into [the depths], the lower parts of the earth?

10 He Who descended is the [very] same as He Who also has ascended high above all the heavens, that He [His presence] might fill all things (the whole universe, from the lowest to the highest).

11 And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers.

12 His intention was the perfecting *and* the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church),

13 [That it might develop] until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and accurate] knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ *and* the completeness found in Him.

14 So then, we may no longer be children, tossed [like ships] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching *and* wavering with every changing wind of doctrine, [the prey of] the cunning *and* cleverness of unscrupulous men, [gamblers engaged] in every shifting form of trickery in inventing errors to mislead.

15 Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way *and* in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

16 For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints *and* ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love.

1) Serve Faithfully

The proof of servanthood is the willingness to abandon all to become a tool in the hand of another.

Philippians 2:20-22

Amplified Bible (AMP)

20 For I have no one like him [no one of so kindred a spirit] who will be so genuinely interested in your welfare *and* devoted to your interests.

21 For the others all seek [to advance] their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ (the Messiah).

22 But Timothy's tested worth you know, how as a son with his father he has toiled with me zealously in [serving and helping to advance] the good news (the Gospel).

Colossians 3:22-24

Amplified Bible (AMP)

22 Servants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not only when their eyes are on you as pleasers of men, but in simplicity of purpose [with all your heart] because of your reverence for the Lord *and* as a sincere expression of your devotion to Him.

23 Whatever may be your task, work at it heartily (from the soul), as [something done] for the Lord and not for men,

24 Knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [and not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [real] reward. [The One Whom] you are actually serving [is] the Lord Christ (the Messiah).

Matthew 25:21

Amplified Bible (AMP)

21 His master said to him, Well done, you upright (honorable, [a]admirable) and faithful servant! You have been faithful *and* trustworthy over a little; I will put you in charge of much. Enter into *and* share the joy (the delight, the [b]blessedness) which your master enjoys.

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Love Genuinely

The question of the ages is not "How much does God love you." But, "How much do I love God?".
(Not once in the book of Acts is God's love ever mentioned!)

Matthew 10:38

Amplified Bible (AMP)

38 And he who does not take up his cross and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conforming wholly to My

example in living and, if need be, in dying also] is not worthy of Me.

John 14:15

Amplified Bible (AMP)

15 If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands.

John 14:21

Amplified Bible (AMP)

21 The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me; and whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I [too] will love him and will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. [I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him.]

John 14:23

Amplified Bible (AMP)

23 Jesus answered, If a person [really] loves Me, he will keep My word [obey My teaching]; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home (abode, special dwelling place) with him.

John 21:15-18

Amplified Bible (AMP)

15 When they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these [others do—with reasoning, intentional, spiritual devotion, as one loves the Father]? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You [that I have deep, instinctive, personal affection for You, as for a close friend]. He said to him, Feed My lambs.

16 Again He said to him the second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me [with reasoning, intentional, spiritual devotion, as one loves the Father]? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You [that I have a deep, instinctive, personal affection for You, as for a close friend]. He said to him, Shepherd (tend) My sheep.

17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me [with a deep, instinctive, personal affection for Me, as for a close friend]? Peter was grieved (was saddened and hurt) that He should ask him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You [that I have a deep, instinctive, personal affection for You, as for a close friend]. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.

18 I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, when you were young you girded yourself [put on your own belt or girdle] and you walked about wherever you pleased to go. But when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will put a girdle around you and carry you where you do not wish to go.

Worship Zealously

Worship begins the moment you place your life upon the Altar named sacrifice.

John 4:21-24

Amplified Bible (AMP)

21 Jesus said to her, Woman, believe Me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither [merely] in this mountain nor [merely] in Jerusalem.

22 You [Samaritans] do not know what you are worshiping [you worship what you do not comprehend].

We do know what we are worshiping [we worship what we have knowledge of and understand], for [after all] salvation comes from [among] the Jews.

23 A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (reality); for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshipers.

24 God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship Him must worship *Him* in spirit and in truth (reality).

Acts 24:11

Amplified Bible (AMP)

11 As you can readily verify, it is not more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship;

Acts 24:14

Amplified Bible (AMP)

14 But this I confess to you, however, that in accordance with the Way [of the Lord], which they call a [heretical, division-producing] sect, I worship (serve) the God of our fathers, still persuaded of the truth of *and* believing in *and* placing full confidence in everything laid down in the Law [of Moses] *or* written in the prophets;

Matthew 15:7-9

Amplified Bible (AMP)

7 You pretenders (hypocrites)! Admirably *and* truly did Isaiah prophesy of you when he said:

8 These people *draw near Me with their mouths and* honor Me with their lips, but their hearts hold off *and* are far away from Me.

9 Uselessly do they worship Me, for they teach as doctrines the commands of men.

Romans 12:9-11

Amplified Bible (AMP)

9 [Let your] love be sincere (a real thing); hate what is evil [loathe all ungodliness, turn in horror from wickedness], but hold fast to that which is good.

10 Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence *and* showing honor to one another.

11 Never lag in zeal *and* in earnest endeavor; be aglow *and* burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord.

Live Excellently

Excellence is the attention to detail that gives birth to outstanding performance which leads to a successful life.

Proverbs 22:29

Amplified Bible (AMP)

29 Do you see a man diligent *and* skillful in his business? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

Excellence is the passionate pursuit of distinction.

Daniel 1:3-19

Amplified Bible (AMP)

3 And the [Babylonian] king told Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring in some of the children of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility—

4 Youths without blemish, well-favored in appearance and skillful in all wisdom, discernment, *and* understanding, apt in learning knowledge, competent to stand *and* serve

in the king's palace—and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

5 And the king assigned for them a daily portion of his own rich *and* dainty food and of the wine which he drank. They were to be so educated *and* so nourished for three years that at the end of that time they might stand before the king.

6 Among these were of the children of Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

7 The chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar [the king's attendant], Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

8 But Daniel determined in his heart that he would not defile himself by [eating his portion of] the king's rich *and* dainty food or by [drinking] the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might [be allowed] not to defile himself.

9 Now God made Daniel to find favor, compassion, *and* loving-kindness with the chief of the eunuchs.

10 And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, I fear, lest my lord the king, who has appointed your food and your drink, should see your faces worse looking *or* more sad than the other youths of your age. Then you would endanger my head with the king.

11 Then said Daniel to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

12 Prove your servants, I beseech you, for ten days and let us be given a vegetable diet and water to drink.

13 Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat of the king's [rich] dainties be observed *and* compared by you, and deal with us your servants according to what you see.

14 So [the man] consented to them in this matter and proved them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days it was seen that they were looking better and had taken on more flesh than all the youths who ate of the king's rich dainties.

16 So the steward took away their [rich] dainties and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables.

17 As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all [kinds of] visions and dreams.

18 Now at the end of the time which the king had set for bringing [all the young men in], the chief of the eunuchs brought them before Nebuchadnezzar.

19 And the king conversed with them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they were assigned to stand before the king.