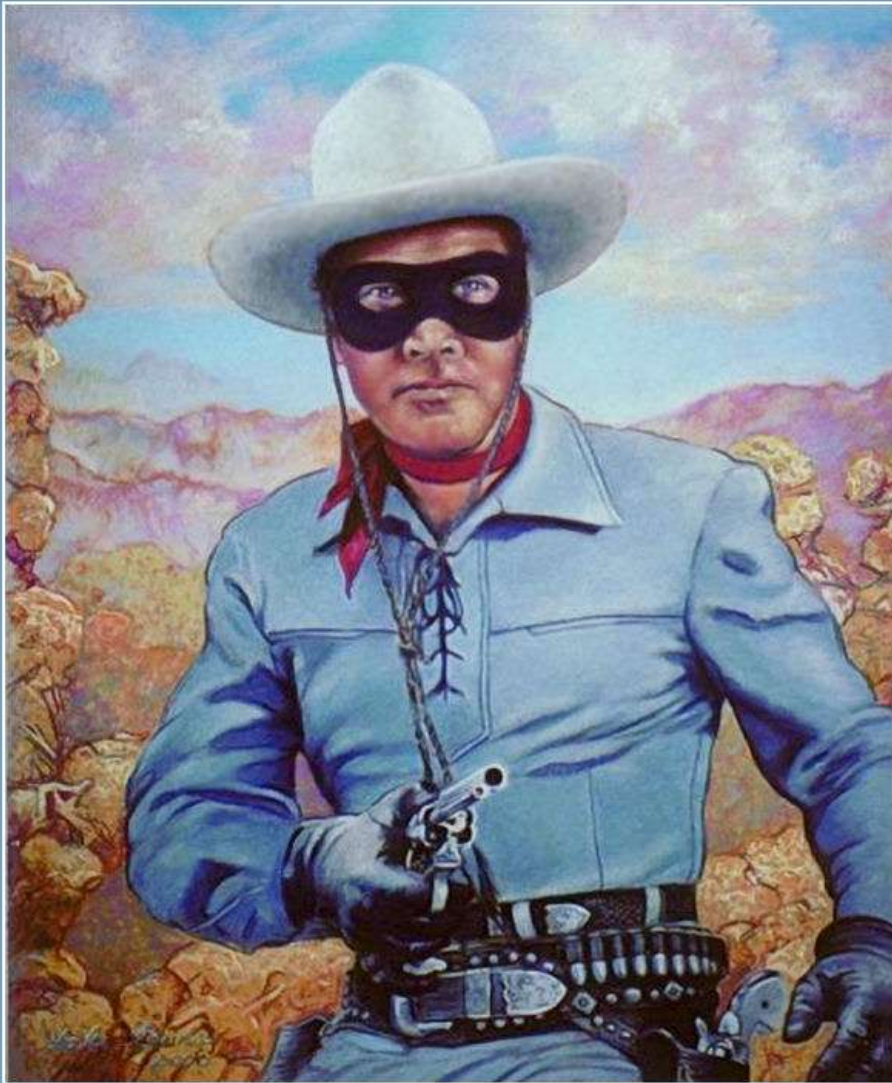


Church

Why Do We Need To Go To Church

What the purpose of the church is?





But 1st. This
Can You Be
A Lone Ranger
Christian?

A Lone Ranger Christian

- Have you heard.....?
- I don't need to go to church, I can be with God while I'm _____!

A Lone Ranger Christian

- First, let's examine the "Lone Ranger Christian" issue.



Even The
Lone Ranger
Wasn't
Alone



Even The
Lone Ranger
Wasn't
Alone

Independent Americans

- We Americans have a long history of independence, rugged individualism, self reliance, standing on our own two feet, going it alone, making our own way, doing it ourselves, being captain of our own ship, determining our own destiny, directing our own affairs, being a self made man, etc..
- But is that the biblical model?

- Eccl 4:11-12 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken. KJV



We Are Commanded To Meet Together

- Heb 10:23-25 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 **Let us not give up** meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
- Let's see what they were doing, what they were commanded to “not give up”;

Please open your Bibles to
Acts 2:42-47

- 42 devoted to the teaching
- the fellowship
- the breaking of bread
- and to prayer.
- 44 All the believers were together
- had everything in common.
- 45 they gave to anyone as he had need.
- 46 continued to meet together
- They ate together with glad and sincere hearts,
- 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.
- And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Paul Says In;

- Phil 2:1-5 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:...

A Lone Christian?

- Let's examine the concept of a "Lone Christian".

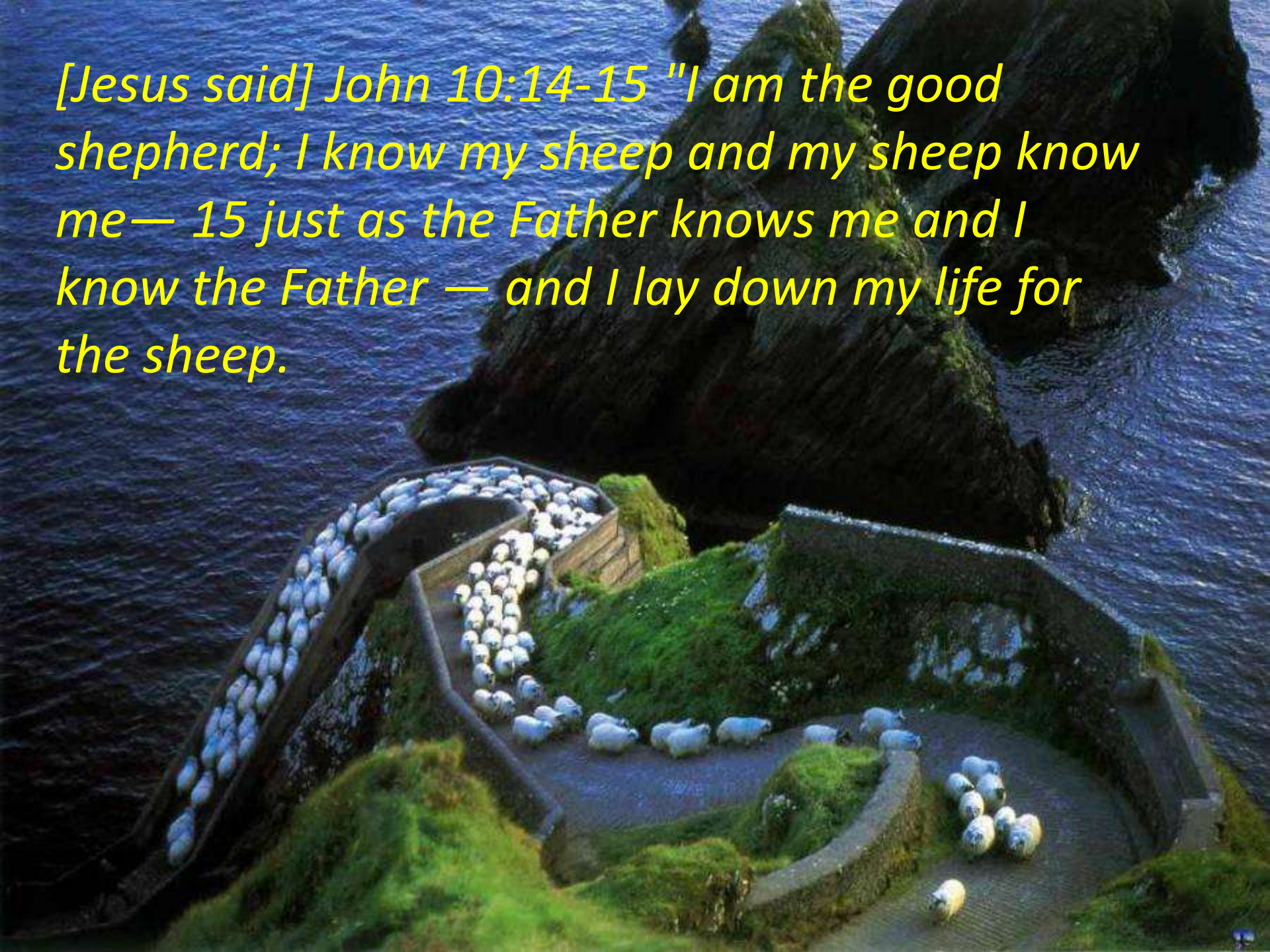
A Lone Christian?

- Being a “Christian” means being **a follower** of Christ.
- Acts 24:14...I admit that I worship the God of our fathers as **a follower of the Way**...

There Is Only One Way, His Way



[Jesus said] John 10:14-15 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep.



Is It Possibly To Follow Christ “Your Own Way” When He Is Leading Millions “His Way”?



Can We Follow Christ “Your Own Way” When We Are One Body?

- We just finished Ephesians and the unity of His body;
- Ephesians 2:15 ...one new man...
- Ephesians 2:16...one body to God...
- Ephesians 2:18 ...in one Spirit...
- Ephesians 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.
- Ephesians 4:25 ...for we are members of one another.
- Ephesians 5:21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Please open your Bibles to 1 Cor 12:12-27

- DLK's summary
- 12 many parts one body. Christ.
- 13 one baptism, one Spirit, one body
- 14 many parts one body
- 15 each part of the body belongs
- 16 each part of the body has a different function
- 17 If one member of the body doesn't do his part the body suffers

- 18 God soverienly arranges the parts in His body
- 19 not one big fat body, but a machine
- 20 many parts one body
- 21 you cannot say "I don't need you!"
- 22 every part is indispensable
- 23 which parts deserve honor?
- 24 God combined the parts
- 25 no division in the body, all parts are equal
- 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
- 27 the body of Christ is one, and you are a part of it.

If You Are a Christian

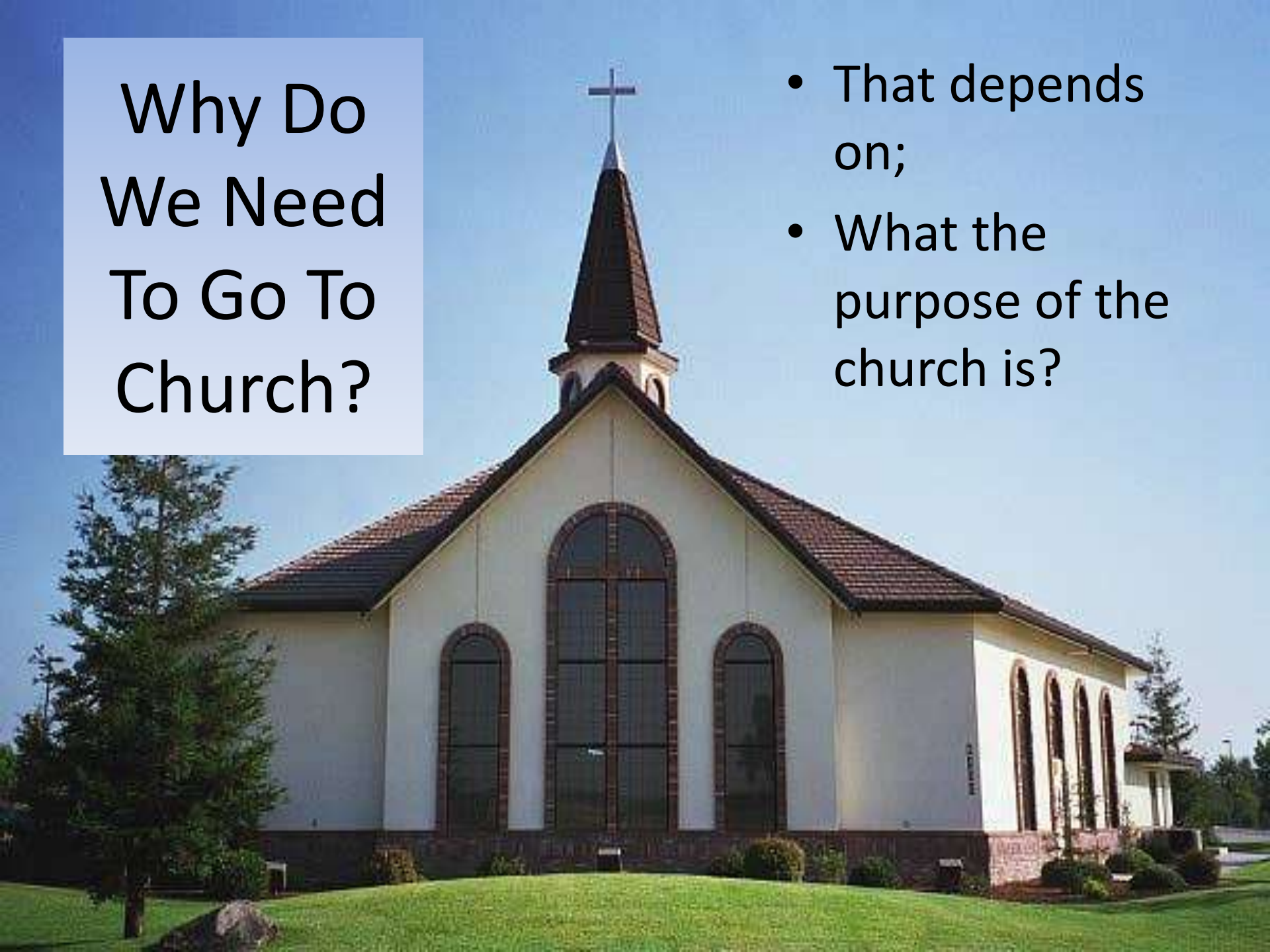
- You are the church!
- Acts 9:31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, **it grew in numbers**, living in the fear of the Lord.
- 1 Cor 14:23 So if the whole church comes together...

If you are a “born again,” a “new creation in Christ”, there should be some changes in your walk.



Why Do We Need To Go To Church?

- That depends on;
- What the purpose of the church is?



What Is The Purpose Of The Church?

Please open your Bibles to
1 Peter 4:7-11

1 Peter 4:7-11

- 1 Peter 4:7 ...so that you can pray. [we get prayer request here]
- 8 ...love each other deeply... [we come together as family]
- 9 ...without grumbling.
- 10 ...serve others... [we learn of needs here]
- 11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God... [we hear God's Word here]
- If anyone serves, he should do it ...
- God must be praised by the "body" of Jesus Christ.

What Is The Purpose Of The Church?

- Eph 4:11-13 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, *[God gifted these folks for specific jobs]*
- 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, **so that** the body of Christ may be built up
- 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the **fullness of Christ**. *[not completed yet]*

Jesus And The Apostles **Showed** Us
What The Church Should Be

S. H. O. W. E. D.

- **S**erving
- **H**oliness
- **O**ther loving
- **W**orship
- **E**vangelism
- **D**iscipleship

S. H. O. W. E. D.

- **S**erving
- 1 Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...
- 1 Peter 4:9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.
- 1 Peter 4:11 If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides...

S. H. O. W. E. D.

- **H**oliness
- 1 Peter 1:14-16 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."
- Matt 18:20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

S. H. O. W. E. D.

- **O**ther loving
- Matt 22:37-40 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."
- 1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

S. H. O. W. E. D.

- **W**orship
- Matt 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
- 1 Cor 14:26...When you come together, everyone has a hymn...
- Matt 4:10...it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'
- Phil 3:3...we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus...
- Rev 14:7...Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water...
- Rom 12:1...offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship...

S. H. O. W. E. D.

- **E**vangelism
- 1 Peter 3:15...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...
- Eph 4:12-13...so that the body of Christ may be built up.
- Acts 5:42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.
- 1 Peter 4:17...what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

S. H. O. W. E. D.

- **Discipleship**
- 1 Cor 14:26...When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction...
- 2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- Titus 2:15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority...
- Titus 2:1 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.
- 1 Tim 4:11 Command and teach these things.
- Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom

Some Closing Thoughts

Communion

- 1 Cor 11:20
When you
come
together, it is
not the
Lord's
Supper you
eat...



Missions

- 3 John 7 It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans.



*Matt 16:17-18 Jesus replied...
I will build my church, and the
gates of Hades will not overcome it.*



- *Jesus is the church's "blessed Hope"*

*John 14:9-18 Jesus answered..
I will not leave you as orphans; I
will come to you.*

THE END