

The Doctrine of the Church



The Purpose of the Church



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Church

The *ekklesia* (Church) of the New Testament refers to a organized band of baptized believers who regularly assemble for Doctrine, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread, Prayers and Worship. The Church is led by pastors and served by deacons, for the following purpose.

The purpose of the Church
considered from a negative
viewpoint.

The main focus or purpose of the Church is not to win souls resulting in the saving of the world.

- The leaven of *Matthew 13:33* is certainly not a picture of the gospel permeating and purifying society, thus turning it into the golden age of the millennium.
- To the contrary, leaven always represents sin – (*I Cor. 5:5-8*)
- The world is going to become much worse before it gets better - (*II Tim. 3:1-7; II Pet. 3:1-5*)

Great Commission is the Mission of
the Church but it is not the Main
Purpose of the Church



The main purpose of the church is not to serve the world.

- Nowhere in the New Testament is the Church told to lobby for stronger pollution laws, march for civil rights, stage protest against the government and unrighteous laws, or seek to eradicate hunger and poverty, etc. – *(Psalm 82:3)*
- The Church should preach against the sins of society but this is not to be its main focus – *(II Tim. 4:1-4)*
- This is not, of course, to say that individual believers cannot be involved in social action which are supported and encouraged by their Church.
- The Church and Believers should be Salt and Light – *(Matt. 5:13-14)*

The main purpose of the Church is not to fight the world.

- There are occasions when local Churches simply must stand up and thunder out against immorality and sin (*Prophets*).
- The Church's main ministry is not to expend all its energies and resources fighting all the ills of the world – (*Eph. 6:10-18*)
- *1 Tim. 6:12* “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”

Onward Christian Soldiers

fight successfully
against sins
and Satan



The main purpose of the Church is not to imitate the world.

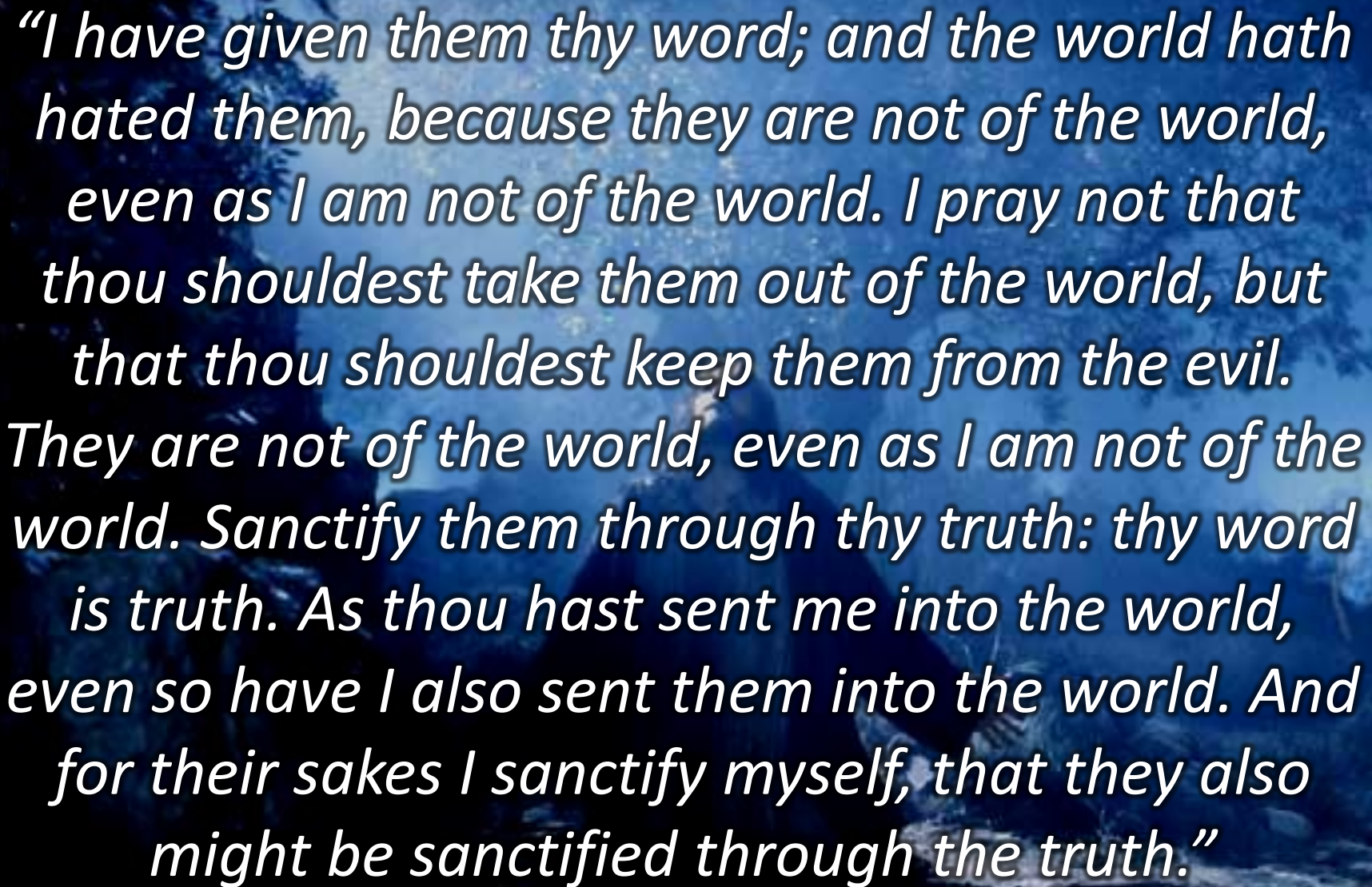
- The idea that the Church must become like the world to reach the world is WRONG!
- *1 John 2:15 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*
- *John 15:19 “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”*

- *II Cor. 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."*



The purpose of the Church is not to isolate itself from the world.





“I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.”

(John 17:14-19)

The purpose of the Church
considered from a positive
viewpoint.

The Passion of the Apostle Paul

“Planting Local Churches”

- The driving force behind his evil actions prior to conversion was to destroy every single local church (*Acts 8:3*)
- The burning purpose after his salvation was to start local churches (*Acts 14:23*)



- The sole reason for his second missionary trip was to establish the Churches he started on his first missionary trip (*Acts 15:36, 41; 16:5*)
- His heaviest burden was for the welfare of those local churches (*II Cor. 11:28*)
- Of his thirteen known New Testament epistles, nine are directly written to local churches, and three to pastors of local churches.
- In his epistles he gave detailed instruction concerning the worship services (*I Cor. 11:1-16*), communion (*I Cor. 11:17-34*), use of spiritual gifts (*I Cor. 12*), the responsibilities of pastors and deacons (*I Tim. 3; Titus 1*) ect.

The facts are that Christ has
literally loaded down His
Church with many
responsibilities and tasks.

The church is to love the Lord with all our heart

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." (Matt. 22:37-38)

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Rev. 2:4)



The church is to display God's wisdom
to angels and His grace to the lost
(Eph. 2:7; 3:10; 1 Pet. 2:9)





JAMES

Living Out Our Faith

The church is to evangelize the world
*(Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John
20:21; Acts 1:8)*



The church is to Baptize believers

(Matt. 28:19)

BAPTISM



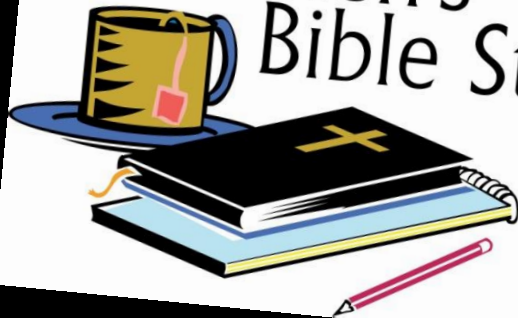
The church is to instruct believers
(*Matt. 28:19; Phil. 4:8-9; I Tim. 4:6;
5:17; II Tim. 2:2, 24-25*)

 Sunday
School

REACH *the*
WORD

JUNIOR
CHURCH

Women's
Bible Study



Men's
Bible Study



The church is to discipline members

(Matt. 18:17; Rom. 16:17; I Cor. 5:1-13; Gal. 6:1; II Thess. 3:6, 14; Titus 3:10, 11; II John 1:10)

Church Discipline

*“Forgotten Doctrine
of the 21st Century”*

The church is to provide fellowship for believers
(*Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Cor. 8:4; 13:14; Gal. 2:9;*
Phil. 1:5; 2:1; 1 John 1:3, 6-7)

- The basis of Christian fellowship—the Person of Christ (*1 John 1:3*)
- The nature of Christian fellowship—sharing (*Acts 2:44-47; 4:32, 34-35*)
- The dangers of losing Christian fellowship—sin/disunity (*1 Cor. 10:16, 21*)

love

greet

serve

forgive

exhort

comfort

One Another

receive

encourage

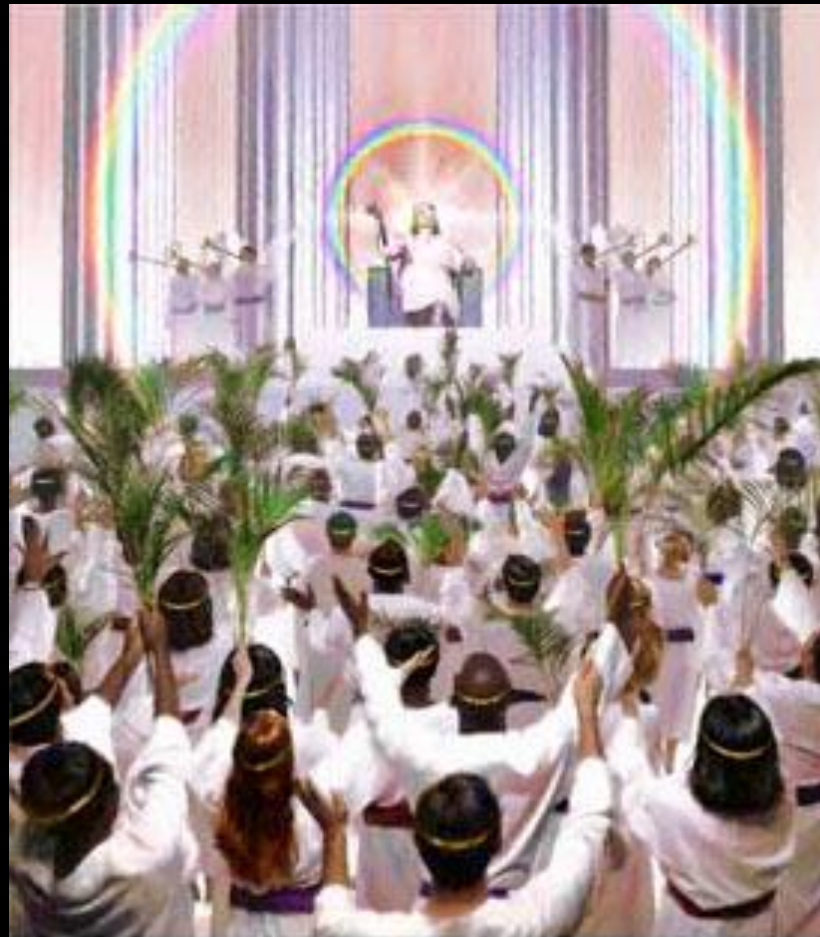
honor

admonish

teach

- Confess our faults (*Jas. 5:16*)
- Rebuke sin in each other (*Eph. 5:11; I Tim. 5:20*)
- Forgive one another (*II Cor. 2:6, 8; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13*)
- Restore one another (*Gal. 6:1*)
- Bear one another's burdens (*Gal. 6:2*)
- Prefer the weaker brother (*Rom. 14:13; 15:1*)
- Comfort and exhort each other (*I Thess. 4:18; 5:11*)
- Pray one for another (*Jas. 5:16*)
- Edify one another (*Rom. 14:19; Heb. 10:24*)
- Admonish one another (*Rom. 15:14; Col. 3:16*)

The church is to prepare rulers for the millennial kingdom *(Rom. 8:17; II Tim. 2:12)*



The Lord Jesus Christ will reign as King forever!

The church is to act as a restraining and
enlightening force in this present world
(*Matt. 5:13-16; 2 Thess. 2:6-7;*
Gen. 18:22-23; 19:12-25)



What is the Main Purpose for the Church



**THE MAIN THING
IS TO KEEP
THE MAIN THING
THE MAIN THING**



“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” (Rev. 4:11)

*“Unto him be glory in the church
by Christ Jesus throughout all
ages, world without end. Amen.”*

(Eph 3:21)

*“And he is the head of the body,
the church: who is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead; that in
all things he might have the
preeminence.” (Col 1:18)*



T O G O D

B E T H E

G L O R Y