

## **Sessions 2-3 The Church's Mission and Authority in that Mission**

### **Part 1: Why do we need to clarify the church's mission and authority?**

- We want to be obedient to what we are commanded to do.
- We want to be faithful stewards of the resources God has given us.
- We want to see God bless the work being done in the church.
- We do not want to be distracted from the most essential matters.

### **Part 2: What are some contemporary dangers plaguing modern American church culture?**

- **The danger of seeing the church as a political tool:**
- **The danger of seeing the church as a charity:**
- **The danger of seeing the church as a business enterprise:**
- **The danger of seeing the church as a platform to display our gifts.**
- **The danger of seeing the church as a tool to establish a trustworthy reputation:**

### **Part 4: What scriptures should shape our view of the church's mission?**

- **Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:7-8**

### **Some important Observations:**

- **First: Christ's ministry of reconciliation (the gospel) is the center of the church's mission:**

- **Second: Fulfilling the church's mission is a matter of obedience not preference:**
  - **Matthew 28:18** "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth..."
    - "Go ye therefore..."
    - "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature..."
    - "Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high..."
- **Third: The church is the practical vehicle through which Christ accomplishes the work of building His Kingdom:**
  - **The apostle's ministry was at the heart of what Christ was doing:**
    - "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..."
    - "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you..."
    - "Ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high..."
    - "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth..."

- **This matters because it establishes the foundational authority upon which the church's mission is built:**
  - **Ephesians 2:19-20; Ephesians 3:4-5; Ephesians 4:11-12; 2 Peter 3:1-2**
- **Fourth: The church's mission is consistent in every generation:**
  - **As you are going, make disciples:** "Teach..."
  - **As you are going, do not leave out any people group:** "All nations..."
  - **As you are going, baptize those who are converted:** "Baptizing them"
  - **As you are going, ground them in the apostle's doctrine:** "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..."
  - **As you are going, recognize that your work is just a piece of God's work to build the kingdom until He returns:** "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world..."

### **Part 5: Final thoughts:**

- This study should simplify our view of what we should be doing as a church.
- It should allow us to concentrate our energies in what God has ordained and chosen to work through.
- It teaches us to obey His authority.
- It teaches us to rest in His wisdom.
- It teaches us to acknowledge His power rather than our own.
- It takes some pressure off our shoulders.
- It provides continually needed checks and balances for our pride.