

# THE CHURCH IS STILL RELEVANT

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## THE CHURCH

### The church was envisioned by God

The bible makes it clear that God has always desired to create a people for Himself; a people who would love Him with all their hearts, and a people for whom He could prove Himself to be a faithful God.

#### Deuteronomy 7:6 (KJV)

6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

### The church was established by Jesus

#### Matthew 16:18 (KJV)

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

This indicate that the church was still in the future when He spoke. He was making a prediction concerning His future building of the church.

### The church was energized by the Holy Spirit

The church is built through the work of the Holy Spirit baptizing believers into the body of Christ.

#### 1 Corinthians 12:13 (KJV)

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

## OUR NEED FOR THE CHURCH:

### GOD'S IDEAL

Church is a spiritual necessity

Interdependence is valued

Spirituality takes place in community

Active involvement in social concerns

### OUR ACTUAL PRACTICE

Church is an optional activity

Individualism is valued

Religion is a private matter

Internally focused

All people fully accepted together

Segregation practiced (racial, social status, etc.)

Authentic behavior w/public and private life matching    Hypocrisy

### THE CHURCH IS STILL RELEVANT BECAUSE...

1. The Church exist to celebrate God's presence

"Exalt our Master"

**Psalm 34:3 (KJV)**

3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

**Psalm 122:1 (KJV)**

1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

2. The Church exist to communicate God's Word

"Evangelize our mission field"

**Acts 20:24 (KJV)**

24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

**Acts 1:8 (KJV)**

8 But 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.

3. The Church exist to Incorporate God's Family

"Encourage our members"

**Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)**

19 Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

**Hebrews 10:24 (NLT2)**

24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

4. The Church exist to educate God's people

“Educate for maturity”

**Ephesians 4:12-13 (ESV)**

12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

5. The Church exist to demonstrate God’s love

“Equip for ministry”

**Ephesians 4:12 (ESV)**

12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,