

Engage

We are busy with a series entitled, Living on Purpose.

Recap:

- Encounter – relationship with God
- Engage – relationship with church
- Equip – maturing or growing to be more Christlike
- Empower – serving in church to empower and encourage others
- Export – serving in the mission field to fulfil your purpose and be a witness

Eph1:5

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure

Eph2:19 MSG

That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

Why is church important?

1) Safety:

Col 1:18 NLT “Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.”

Eph 4:14 NLT

“Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit

together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

2) Find your identity:

Rom 12 4/5NLT

"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other."

- We all have a specific function in the family- the local church.

3) Truth: growth, measuring, be honest with yourself.

Col 2: 19

¹⁹But they are not connected to Christ, the Head to which all of us who are his body are joined; for we are joined together by his strong sinews, and we grow only as we get our nourishment and strength from God.

Eph 4: 12 NLT

"Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ".

- Growing in family will cost you.

Col 1:24 NLT

"I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church."

Prov 27:17

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."

4) Love- support/share

Col3:15 NLT

"And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful."

John 13:34-35

'So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.'

- We are called to love.

God has always wanted a family

'Father of orphans, champion of widows, is God in his holy house. God makes homes for the homeless, leads prisoners to freedom, but leaves rebels to rot in hell. Father of orphans, champion of widows, is God in his holy house. God makes homes for the homeless, leads prisoners to freedom, but leaves rebels to rot in hell.'

Psalm 68:5-6