



Looking Up for Your Purpose 1 Peter 4:7-11

Have you ever sailed on a cruise ship? What did you like about being on a cruise ship? Have you ever been on a fishing boat? There's a big difference between being on a cruise ship and a fishing boat!

On a cruise ship, a minority of people do the work. On a fishing boat, everyone works. A cruise ship exists for those inside the ship. A fishing boat often exists for those outside the boat. On a cruise ship, it's all about you! A fishing boat has a single focus: to catch fish!

Do you see the church as a cruise ship or a fishing boat?

A place where few are tasked with the work, or that you have a responsibility to Christ to serve? Do you see the church existing primarily to meet the needs of those inside it, or those outside the ship? Do you see the church as a place to make you feel good, or a place of purpose like a fishing boat, where it's "all hands on deck?"

Your view of the church affects the entire church!

I want to look at four characteristics of a church described by the Apostle Peter.

1) We are to be a praying church (Verse 7).

The NASB ends this verse, "... for the purpose of prayer." To contribute to becoming a praying church is your purpose! Notice this is the first thing listed! Jesus said, "My house shall be called a "house of Prayer!"

2) We are to be a loving church (Verse 8).

Notice they were to "keep loving one another." Those outside the church will not believe we care for them if they cannot see we care for one another! (John 13:34-35).

3) We are to be a welcoming church (Verse 9).

The Greek word "hospitality" (*philoxenos*) literally means "to be a friend/to love" and "a stranger/foreigner."

4) We are to be a serving church (Verse 10).

Look at the word "each."
Each has received a gift; each is to use that gift.
You are an "each!"
We should be able to answer the question, "Where are you serving?"

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...that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The church is not a cruise ship for our pleasure, but a fishing boat with a single purpose, where each is to be involved in fulfilling that purpose!

Write down the doxology in 1 Peter 4:11. Write below this the words: Praying Church, Loving Church, Welcoming Church, and Serving Church. Listen to how the Spirit speaks to your heart.



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