

# **“What is the Church Supposed to Be and Do?”**

## **Foundations of the Faith**

### **Pastor Robb Oram**

**subject: what the church is supposed to be and do**

**objective: fulfill my calling as a member of Christ’s Body**

#### I. What is the Church?

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)

A. a church is much more than a building

B. the Church is the people of God

“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.” (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Discussion Question: How does understanding we are the church change the way we worship the Lord?

#### II. How did the Church begin?

A. the Church officially began in Jerusalem at Pentecost (Acts 2)

#### III. What are the purposes of the Church?

“But you shall receive the power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

A. the first purpose of the Church is to proclaim the gospel to the world

B. a second purpose of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20)

Discussion Question: How can individual believers help fulfill the Church’s responsibility to make disciples?

#### IV. What are the roles in the Church?

A. God has designated specific roles within the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, and Titus 1:5-9)

1. apostle (“one who is sent out”)

a. a special messenger of Jesus Christ, to whom He delegated authority for certain tasks

2. prophet

a. one who spoke for God and communicated His message to His people

3. elder (bishop; overseer) (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

a. responsible for spiritual oversight of the people of God

4. pastor/teacher (Ephesians 4:11)

a. responsible for shepherding the people of God and teaching them His Word

5. deacon (1 Timothy 3)

a. someone who commits to serve in a particular area of ministry

6. each believer is a critical part of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

V. What special activities should the Church be doing?

A. baptism

1. a public demonstration of a personal, inward decision to believe in Jesus Christ

B. communion (the Lord’s Supper)

1. an opportunity for believers to remember who Jesus is and what He’s done for us