

The Role of the Church

To Make Disciples... What does that look like?

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” - Matthew 28:19-20

What is the Church's Purpose?

- ✦ What does it mean to “make disciples”?
- ✦ Μαθητής - (noun) a disciple, a pupil, a “learner”
 - ✦ With implications of being an adherent of the teacher
- ✦ Μαθητευω - (verb) to be or to make one a disciple
 - ✦ In the current context, this is an imperative/command

What is the Church's Purpose?

- ✦ How do we make disciples?
- ✦ Is it enough to preach the Gospel and move on?
- ✦ What's the biblical model for the church?

What is the Church's Purpose?

- ✦ Acts 2:14-42
- ✦ Acts 5:42
- ✦ Acts 6:1-4
- ✦ Acts 14:19-23
- ✦ Acts 15:30-35
- ✦ Acts 18:18
- ✦ Acts 19:1-10
- ✦ Acts 20:17-38
- ✦ 1 Timothy 1:3-4
- ✦ 2 Timothy 2:2
- ✦ Titus 1:5

What is the Church's Purpose?

- ✦ Making disciples is ALWAYS more than evangelism, though it is NEVER less.
 - ✦ First a man must be born again, but then he must be instructed in the word of truth.
- ✦ An establishment that sacrifices one for the sake of the other IS NOT A CHURCH.

What are the duties of the Church?

- ✦ The Church of Jesus Christ has been commanded to do three things
 - ✓ Make Disciples
 - ✦ Baptize Believers
 - ✦ Observe the Lord's Supper

What is Baptism?

- ✦ The outward, post conversion demonstration of an inward reality that has already occurred at conversion.
- ✦ Baptism not only signifies a turning away from sin but also serves as a public affirmation of one's identification and union with him in his death, burial, and resurrection.

Baptism in the Scriptures

- ✦ Acts 2:38
- ✦ Acts 8:36
- ✦ Acts 9:18
- ✦ Acts 16:15, 33

Baptism in the Scriptures

- ✦ There is not a single instance in the NT where baptism does not accompany belief and repentance.
- ✦ Baptism is **ALWAYS** in accompaniment with belief/faith.

Baptism and Salvation

- ✦ If Baptism is always in accompaniment with faith, is baptism necessary for salvation?
 - ✦ Acts 4:19
 - ✦ Acts 10:44-48
 - ✦ 1 Corinthians 1:14-17
 - ✦ 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Baptism and Salvation

- ✦ While baptism is closely linked with salvation, it is a human work and therefore is not part of the Gospel. It cannot save you.
- ✦ Why then should we be baptized?

Why Baptism?

- ✦ Baptism is a means by which we **identify** with Christ. It is a statement to the world that you are now a part of something else.
- ✦ Baptism preaches the Gospel
 - ✦ Death (Christ's/yours to sin)
 - ✦ Burial (Proof of death/identify with Christ)
 - ✦ Resurrection (To glory/to a life of obedience)

Who Should be Baptized?

- ✦ Believers in Jesus Christ
 - ✦ There is not a single instance in Scripture of anyone being baptized that has not already believed and repented. Infant or otherwise.
 - ✦ Likewise, there's no precedence for an unbaptized believer in the NT through the 2nd Century

Mode of Baptism

- ✦ Is there a proper way to Baptize?
- ✦ βαπτίζω - To plunge or to dip
- ✦ Matthew 3:16
- ✦ Acts 8:39

Mode of Baptism

- ✦ It seems that there is no reason to suggest that “to baptize” means anything other than to submerge a person in water and then bring them up out of the water.
- ✦ This practice was the norm in the early church... until they started baptizing babies.

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The Lord's Supper

- ✦ What is the Lord's Supper?
- ✦ Who should partake in the Lord's Supper?
- ✦ How often should we partake of the Lord's Supper?

What is the Lord's Supper?

- ✦ Matthew 26:26-30
- ✦ Mark 14:22-26
- ✦ Luke 22:14-20
- ✦ I Corinthians 11:23-34

Four Views

- ✦ **Transubstantiation** - The bread and wine are transformed into the actual body and blood of Christ. Consuming the elements fills the partaker with grace.
- ✦ **Consubstantiation** - While grace is not infused nor the elements transformed, the actual person of Christ is present around and in the elements.
- ✦ **Spiritual Presence** - The presence of Christ is real with his church as they partake of His supper together so that there is real “communion” with Him.
- ✦ **Memorial** - The sacrificial death of Christ is remembered by his followers while they also eagerly await the day of His return.

Who Should Partake?

- ✦ Believers?
- ✦ Believers + Family Members?
- ✦ Anyone who is present?

Who Should Partake?

- ✦ You view of the Lord's Supper is going to greatly influence your answer
 - ✦ **Transubstantiation** - Anyone
 - ✦ **Consubstantiation** - Anyone?
 - ✦ **Spiritual Presence** - Believers (+Family?)
 - ✦ **Memorial** - Believers

How Often?

- ✦ How often should we partake of the Lord's Supper?
 - ✦ Annually?
 - ✦ Quarterly?
 - ✦ Monthly?
 - ✦ Weekly?

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