

Be
the
Church

Romans 12:5

so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ESV

WE are the church.

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. ESV

Ephesians 3:11

⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ESV

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God is working all things toward one final purpose, the restoration of all creation through Christ. Therefore, the eternal purpose of the church is to glorify God in everything we do as we join Him in His purpose.

Scripture, God's revelation to mankind:

Tells us about the nature and purpose of God.

Tells us about the nature and purpose of mankind.

Tells us how to have a relationship with God.

Tells us about our role as the church in His purpose.



Church Of The Cross

DONT LET WORRIES
KILL YOU
LET THE CHURCH
HELP

United Methodist Church

InnocentEnglish.com

**LITTLE HOPE
BAPTIST CHURCH**



Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

SUN SCHOOL
10:00 AM

WORSHIP SERVICE
11:00 AM

WTD SERVICE
7:00 PM

Rex Foyell Blanks

**DO YOU KNOW
WHAT HELL IS?
COME HEAR OUR PREACHER**

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ESV

The Great Commandment must be viewed through the lens of God's purpose—this provides context for the purpose and mission of the church.

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ESV

What does this look like “practically” in Scripture?

“I used to think I could learn about Jesus by studying Him, but now I know He doesn’t want stalkers.”

Bob Goff

Apologetics:

“There are differing kinds of apologetics systems, and no universally acknowledged way to categorize them.”

Geisler

Apologetics:

“Apologetics is that branch of Christian theology which seeks to provide a rational justification for the truth claims of the Christian faith...it specifically serves to show unbelievers the truth of the Christian faith, to confirm that faith to believers, and to reveal and explore the connections between Christian doctrine and other truths.”

William Lane Craig

Apologetics – from the Greek “apologia” > To make a defense

Context: A legal defense against a false accusation

Informational Apologetics: The traditional form of evangelism used to “convince” the world of God’s truth.

Incarnational Apologetics:

*“The consistent affirmation of the Gospel through your life, both in your words and your actions, as well as in the lives of those you disciple and lead. It is being zealous to **do** good for God.”*

This does not replace informational apologetics, it is an *addition* founded solidly in Scripture. Somehow, the modern church has, in many ways, forgotten how to “be” the church Jesus started.

1 Corinthians 9:1-3

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? ² If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. ³ This is my **defense** (*apologia*) to those who would **examine** me. ESV

Philippians 1:6-7

⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, **for you are all partakers with me of grace**, both in my imprisonment and in the **defense** (*apologia*) **and confirmation** of the gospel. ESV

The fruit from your actions as evidenced in the lives of others defends and confirms the Gospel to the world.

1 Peter 3:13-17

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a **defense** (*apologia*) to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

ESV

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“How” you show Jesus to the world is just as critical as “what” you tell them.

How does this all work together as we focus on “being” the body of Christ?

Questions the world is asking:

1. Who am I?
2. Where did I come from?
3. What’s my purpose?
4. *Who, or what, can I trust to answer these questions?*

Incarnational living provides believers an opportunity to build relationships.

1 Corinthians 9:22-24

²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.

²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ESV

Every man has built a roof over his head to shield himself at the point of tension. The Christian lovingly must remove the shelter and allow the truth of the external world, and of what man is, to beat upon him. When the roof is off, each man must stand naked and wounded before the truth of what is. He must come to know that his roof is a false protection from the storm of what is.

Francis Schaeffer

We will never argue anyone into God's Kingdom, nor will the church as an institution "attract" the lost world into the Kingdom.

Rather, "being" the church is our divine mission to show God's love *in the words and actions of our daily lives*, thereby removing barriers and exposing false shelters that keep God's lost children from a personal encounter with Jesus.

Our "apologia" is the testimony to the world *outside the church doors* of a life lived fully with Jesus.



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