

(8) Pray one for another (Jas. 5:16).

(9) Edify one another

(Rom. 14:19; Heb. 10:24).

(10) Admonish one another

(Rom. 15:14; Col. 3:16).

10. It is to care for its own in time of need.

(2 Cor. 8, 9; 1 Tim. 5:1-16; Jas. 1:27).

11. It is to provoke Israel to jealousy.

Rom. 11:11

12. It is to prepare rulers for the millennial kingdom (Rom. 8:17; 2 Tim. 2:12).

13. It is to act as a restraining and enlightening force in this present world (Mt. 5:13-16; 2 Thess. 2:6, 7; cf. Gen. 18:22, 23; 19:12-25).

14. It is to promote all that is good (Gal. 6:10).

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:25

## THE CHURCH

The word church means: ekklesia or called out ones. *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light"* (1 Pet. 2:9).

### The Purpose of the Church

The ekklesia of the New Testament refers only to those geographical groups of baptized believers who regularly assemble, led by pastors and deacons, for the purpose of worship, instruction, fellowship, and evangelism.

1. It is to love God.

2. It is to glorify God

(Eph. 1:5, 6, 11, 12, 14; 3:21; 2 Thess. 1:12).

### How do we glorify God?

a. Through our praise and prayer

(Ps. 50:23; Jn. 14:13; Heb. 13:15).

b. Through our fruit-bearing (Jn. 15:8).

c. Through our giving (Phil. 4:18; Heb.13:16).

- d. Through our preaching and ministry (1 Pet. 4:11).
  - e. Through our loving (Rom. 15:5, 6).
  - f. Through our acknowledging of God's Son (Phil. 2:9-11).
  - g. Through our believing of God's Word (Rom. 4:20).
  - h. Through our suffering (Jn. 21:18, 19; 1 Pet. 4:14, 16).
  - i. Through our witnessing (2 Thess. 3:1).
3. It is to display God's grace. (Eph. 2:7; 3:6, 10; 1 Pet. 2:9).
  4. It is to evangelize the world (Mt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16:15; Lk. 24:47; Jn. 20:21; Acts 1:8).
  5. It is to baptize believers (Mt. 28:19).
  6. It is to instruct believers (Mt. 28:19; Phil. 4:8, 9; 1 Tim. 4:6; 5:17; 2 Tim. 2:2, 24, 25).
  7. It is to edify believers (1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 4:11, 12, 16; 1 Thess. 5:11; 2 Pet. 3:18; Jude 20).
  8. It is to discipline believers.  
There are three kinds of New Testament discipline.
    - a. Self-discipline (1 Cor. 11:31; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Jn. 3:3).
    - b. Sovereign discipline (Jn. 15:2; Acts 5:5, 10; 1 Cor. 11:32; Heb. 12:9, 10; 1 Pet. 4:17).

- c. Church discipline (Mt. 18:17; Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; Gal. 6:1; 2 Thess, 3:6, 14; Titus 3:10, 11; 2 Jn. 1:10).
9. It is to provide fellowship for believers! (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Cor. 8:4; 13:14; Gal 2:9; Phil. 1:5; 2:1; 1 Jn. 1:3, 6, 7).
    - a. The basis of Christian fellowship—the Person of Christ (1 Jn. 1:3).
    - b. The nature of Christian fellowship—sharing (Acts 2:44-47; 4:32, 34, 35).
    - c. The dangers of losing Christian fellowship--sin (1 Cor. 10:16, 21).
- The responsibilities of Christian fellowship:
- (1) Confess our faults (Jas. 5:16).
  - (2) Rebuke sin in each other (Eph. 5:11; 1 Tim. 5:20).
  - (3) Forgive one another (2 Cor. 2:6, 8; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13).
  - (4) Bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2).
  - (5) Gently restore one another (Gal. 6:1).
  - (6) Prefer the weaker brother (Rom. 14:13; 15:1).
  - (7) Comfort and exhort each other (1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11).