



"GET A GRIP ON YOUR FAITH"



DOCTRINE #10: THE CHURCH & ITS MISSION

Are You Sure?

- Complete this sentence in ten different ways!
The church is....

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

- What is the purpose of the Church?

Statement of Faith #10



We believe the Church is the Body of Christ with a divinely called ministry. Its purpose is to evangelize the world, worship God, and encourage believers to grow in the likeness of Christ.

The Nature of the Church

- There are two Greek words for "church".
 1. **ecclesia** = an assembly of called out ones (separate from the world)
 2. **kuriakos** = that which belongs to the Lord (separate unto God)

- What are the three metaphors used in the Bible to describe the Church?

1. The **Body of Christ!**

- ▶ According to 1 Cor. 12:27, who is the Body of Christ?

We are ... the Christians.

- ▶ What is the purpose of each individual part?

To serve the whole.

- ▶ What should our attitude be toward other parts that may be quite different?
See 1 Cor. 21-26.

Appreciate them.

2. The **Temple of God!**

- ▶ According to 1 Cor. 3:16, 17, who is God's Temple?

We are ... the Christians

- ▶ What does 1 Peter 2:5,6 say we are being built into?

A spiritual house.

- ▶ Who is the foundation of this building?
Read 1 Cor. 3:10,11 and Eph. 2:19-22.

Jesus Christ.

- ▶ What is the purpose of this Temple? Note Eph. 3:22. Compare to Ex. 25:8 and 1 Kings 8:27.

To be a dwelling place for God.

- ▶ What personal application can you make about being the Temple of God?

Is my spiritual house in order?



3. The **Bride of Christ!**

- ▶ According to **Eph. 5:25-32**, who is the Bride of Christ?
We are ... the Church.
- ▶ What is the picture that is being painted in **Rev. 19:7** and **21:2**?
Anticipation and preparation.
- ▶ Note the use of this metaphor in **Rev. 21:9** and **22:17**.
- ▶ What point is Paul making about fidelity in **2 Cor. 11:1-3**?
Single-hearted devotion.
What do fidelity and intimacy have in common?
Purity produces intimacy.
- ▶ What is the message of the Parable found in **Matt. 25:1-13**?
Be ready.

The Work of the Church

- What are the three purposes of the Church as stated in the Statement of Faith?
 1. Evangelize the world.
 2. Worship God!
 3. Grow in the likeness of Christ!
- What does the Bible say about these purposes of the Church?
 1. **Evangelize the World!**
 - ▶ What does **Mark 16:15** tell us to do?
"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."
 - ▶ Where does **Acts 1:8** tell us to go?
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
 - ▶ Who does **Rom. 10:13-15** say must be involved?
"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? and how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

2. Worship God!

- ▶ What is meant by **Hebrews 13:15**?
"Go Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess His name."
- ▶ What does **Rom. 12:1-2** teach us about how we are to worship?
"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will."
- ▶ What does **Psalms 95:6** tell us to do?
"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker."

3. Grow in the Likeness of Christ!

- ▶ What has God given to the Church, and for what purpose? See **Eph. 4:11-16**.
"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."
- ▶ According to **Col. 1:28**, what is the goal of the Church?
"We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ."
- ▶ In summary, what is a good two-word Mission Statement for the Church?
Make disciples.
Read **Matt. 28:19-20**.
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."