

# What Should Churches Aim For?



## THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

WAS THE CHURCH  
DESIGNED WITH  
PURPOSE?

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# What is the Church?

- Tonight's lesson is a brief study of the church – why it exists.
- The relationship between its Creator and its carriers
- Its influence in the life of believers
- Its impact on culture and community

# What is the Church?

- Define the meaning of church
- Identify Jesus vision for the church
- Explore biblical purposes
- Identify the believers' role
- Define the churches' mission and aim

# What is the Church?

It is more than the building!

The building is the place where the church gathers.

Biblically, the church is the people – it is an assembly or local congregation of called out believers.

What is the  
Church?

The Greek word for  
church is -

“Ekklesia”

The Called Out.

“Ecclesiology”

# What Should Churches Aim For?



**Numerical  
church growth  
is not a NT  
emphasis  
(1 Cor. 4:2)**

# What Should Churches Aim For?



In the local church both the method and *message* should bring glory to His Name

# A Declaration of Faith

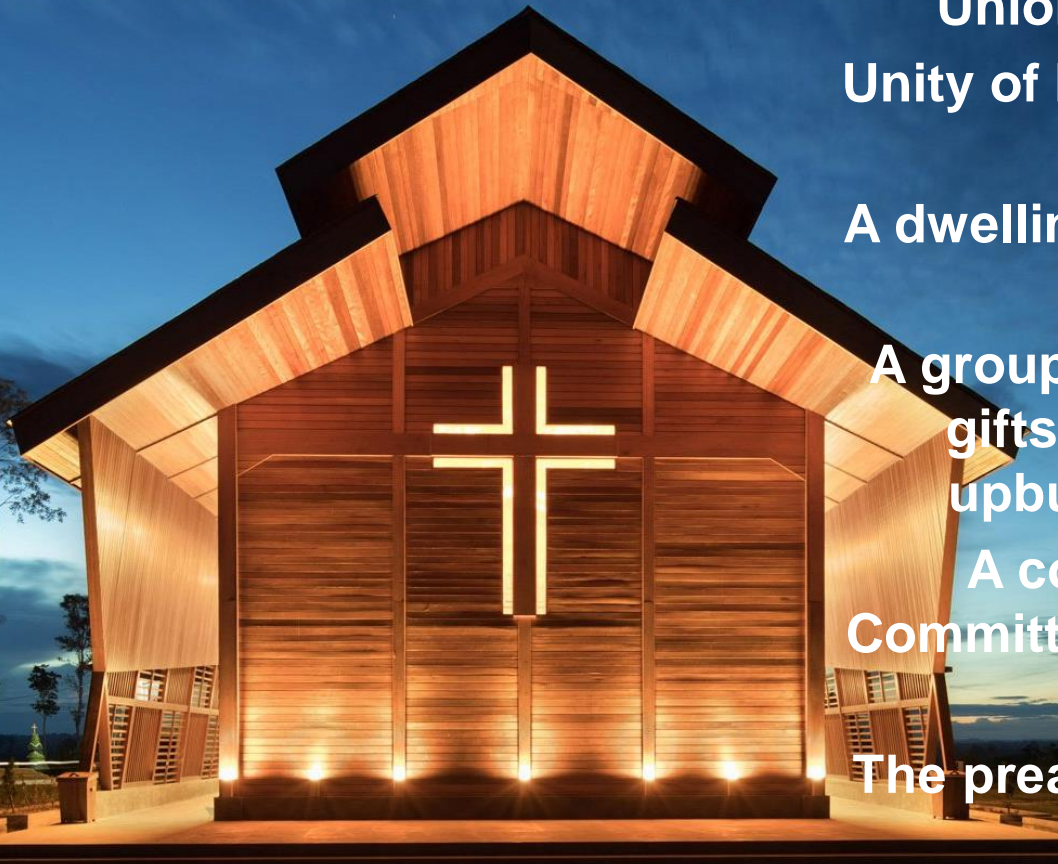
## *Matthew 16*

*17: Jesus answered and said to him,  
“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh  
and blood has not revealed this to you, but  
My Father who is in heaven.*

*18: 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.*



# What was Jesus' Vision for the Church?



**Union with Him and the Father**

**Unity of believers – just as He and the Father are One**

**A dwelling place of Spirit-filled, Spirit-led individuals**

**A group individuals exercising their gifts, talents and skills for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom**

**A community of Concerned, Committed, Compassionate believers in fellowship**

**The preaching and teaching of God's word**

# The Rightful Owner of the Church

Jesus,

He gave His life for the Church

He is the Head of the Church - the Chief Cornerstone,  
Founder and Architect

He considers the Church to be His bride

He is the Great Shepherd

He said that He would do the building – using believers  
as instruments of His plan and purpose

The Holy Spirit guides the church

# Biblical Purposes of the Local Church

- 1 - Teaching biblical doctrine
- 2 - Providing a place of fellowship and safety
- 3 - A place of prayer
- 4 - Observation of the two Ordinances of the church
- 5 - Proclamation of the Gospel of Christ – Salvation
- 6 - Serving and ministering to the needs of others
- 7 - A place of refuge and comfort
- 8 - Disciple building
- 9 - Equipping and strengthening the saints
- 10 – A place praise and worship of our Heavenly Father

The local church exists to glorify God through worshipping Him, edifying His people and evangelizing the world

# What's My Role?

Ephesians 4:7

Ephesians 4:11

1 Cor. 12: 12-31

Romans 12: 3-8

1 Peter 4:10

Matthew 25:35

# What's My Role?

Love and serve one another

Encourage, support, edify one another

Rejoice with others

Be compassionate and concerned for others

Pray for one another

Support with time, talent, tithes

Study and learn the Word of God

Be a witness – testify of His goodness

Support and pray for the leadership and Pastor

# What Should Churches Aim For?



The mission of the church -

**Meeting the needs of the people.**

Holding true to this cause – we see that Jesus looked at the needs of the people around Him; provided for it, and then began to preach out the good deeds – the Kingdom message

# Scriptural Marks of a Healthy Church

A green line graph with a church icon in the background. The graph shows a fluctuating line that generally trends upwards, with a prominent peak in the center. The church icon is a simple line drawing of a building with a steeple and a cross on top, positioned in the upper right corner of the image.

**Healthy churches...**

- a) are measured in **spiritual rather than numerical** terms**
- b) follow **biblical rather than cultural** patterns of ministry**
- c) are based on **theological rather than sociological** foundations**

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**Healthy churches...**

- d) focus on a ministry model rather than a marketing model**
- e) adopt scriptural rather than secular models of leadership**



# Commissioned!

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them saying - All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.  
Amen

