

The Mission Of The Church Ephesians 3:8-11

This lesson emphasizes the Church as a divine arrangement with a divine purpose

This should dispel from every mind the common concept that the church was planned by human wisdom, brought into existence by human will, ruled by human authority or has a social mission

What The Work Of The Church Is Not

Social or Civil

Gospel will work social reform through reforming individuals' manner of living and thinking
Christians did not undertake social reform or social equality

Paul taught whether slave or master be the best - **1Corinthians 7:21**

Home is the place for social activity - **1Corinthians 11:22**

Financial - Supported by freewill offerings - **2Corinthians 9:7**

Education - Not a secular education center - **Hebrews 5:12**

Political - Not a political action organization **Romans 13:1-7; 1Peter 2:13-14**

Church The Result Of God's Eternal Purpose

Ephesians 3:10-11

God then is the supreme architect of the church

Pattern is divine, result of divine wisdom and planning - compare great building by architect

Pattern represents not only divine planning but divine will which cannot be disregarded but must be followed: note these examples

Noah had a pattern for the ark **Genesis 6:13-22**

Moses had a pattern for tabernacle - **Exodus 25:40**

Principle applied to church - **1Corinthians 3:9-11; Hebrews 8:5**

The idea that God tells us only what to do and not how to do it is in direct conflict with Bible teaching

Built by Christ in harmony with God's purpose and plan - **Matthew 16:17-18**

Ruled by divine will and authority - **Matthew 28:18-20**

Divine Plan For Church In Accomplishing God's Purpose

Ephesians 4:11

Apostles and prophets - their work of divine revelation is finished. It is preserved for us - **2Peter 1:12-15; Ephesians 3:4**

Evangelist - their work is propagating the gospel - **2Timothy 4:2,5**

Pastors and teachers - their work is all within the local congregation - **Acts 20:28**

Divine wisdom has given this arrangement through which the church is to accomplish its divine mission

Those charged with these tasks in the early church were given gifts to make it possible for them to function according to divine will until revelation was complete **Ephesians 4:8-13; 1Corinthians 13:9-10**

The Church Given A Divine Program Through Which It May Accomplish Its Work Or Activity

Ephesians 4:12

Perfecting: of the saints (katartismos) MacKnight says to place the parts of any machine or body in proper order and to unite them so as to render the machine or body complete; complete furnishing, equipping

Hence the edifying of the body - Thayer's

Educating or training in right living and acceptable service to God

Work Of The Ministry: (diakonia) same word used in **2Cor 9:1** (ministry to the saints). Service is the idea, includes ministering to the poor but not limited to that: it includes any act of service

Edifying The Body: (oikodome) A form of word used in **Mt 16:18** (build My church) and means to promote growth; the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness

The Church Is A Spiritual Institution With A Spiritual Mission

Ephesians 3:10

The reason the church is not growing today is one of two or maybe a combination of both. We have either forgotten what our mission is or we are simply not practicing it.

No man has the right to debase the energy, strength, zeal or resources of the church to serve human aims or purposes

The church should and must be kept faithful to the divine mission that was God's purpose from eternity for her to serve

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