

# **What the Church Was Meant to Be – Part 1**

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## Introduction:

### A. What is the purpose of the church?

1. To glorify God. (Ephesians 1:6, 12, 13, 17, 18)
2. God predestined us, redeemed us and sealed us to the praise of his glory.
3. Paul lays down the doctrine before he gives imperatives, just as he does in Romans.
  - a. Unto God be glory in the church. (Ephesians 3:21)
  - b. The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

### B. God calls out a people for himself. (Romans 1:18)

1. We can't understand forgiveness unless we understand wrath.
  - a. Some glorify God, becoming children of grace.
  - b. Some do not glorify God, becoming children of wrath.
  - c. Christ in believers is our only hope of glory. (Colossians 1)
  - d. Israel was called on to glorify the God of Israel. (Jeremiah 13)
  - e. Nebuchadnezzar refused to glorify God and was disciplined for it. (Daniel 4)
  - f. Betschazzar his son also did not glorify God and was disciplined.
  - g. Herod claimed to be God, refusing to glorify God, and was disciplined for it. (Acts 12)
  - h. Even the beasts of the field glorify God. (Isaiah 43:20)

## I. How do we glorify God?

### A. Jesus humbled himself to obey the will of God and God gave him a name above every name so that every tongue would confess Jesus Christ is lord to the glory of God. (Philippians 2:9)

1. We come to Christ to avoid the wrath of God and to experience the blessings of God.
2. We come to Christ primarily to glorify God.
3. We end our rebellion when we come to God through faith in Christ.

4. A missionary for Christ burned out for God in India, desiring to glorify God.
5. Salvation is God centered, not man centered.
6. I believe the Lordship of Christ is necessary for salvation because Jesus is Lord.
7. As we evangelize keep the focus on God.
8. I preached on Romans 1 saying salvation is to the glory of God.
  - a. Out of 125 men, 123 came to faith realizing they needed to glorify God.
  - b. The truth will draw men to God.

B. We glorify God by aiming our lives at that purpose.

1. Jesus came to glorify God. (John 8:50)
2. Whatever we do we should do to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
3. Ask how our will actions glorify God.
4. Kenneth Haggin and Kenneth Copeland make the Gospel a blessing vehicle when it is really a glorifying vessel.
5. How shall we aim our lives to the glory of God?
  - a. Be willing to suffer anything for Christ.
    1. Peter decided to go fishing out of disappointment. (John 21)
    2. Jesus gave him a great catch and then told him how he would glorify God in his death.
    3. Glorifying God may cost us our lives.
    4. A man went to seminary and was called to a cannibal tribe.
    5. After a while in ministry a chief asked who the men were that guarded his hut at night.
    6. His wife and child died in childbirth.
    7. Over the course of 35 years all the men in the tribe came to faith.
  - b. Be willing to suffer when God suffers.
    1. When I identify with God's purposes I enter into his sufferings. (Psalm 69:9)
    2. Do we feel pain when God is dishonored?

3. Are we broken hearted when Jesus is dishonored?

c. We are content to be outdone in ministry as long as God gets glory.  
(Philippians 1:12-21)

1. Paul was in prison when he wrote Philippians.

2. In spite of this he saw his trouble as contributing to the furtherance of the Gospel.

3. He recognized that some preached Christ out of contention, trying to gain attention for themselves, yet he rejoiced anyway because Christ was being preached.

4. Many young pastors criticize older men of God.

C. We glorify God when we confess sin.

1. Achan had stolen something under the ban after Jericho. (Joshua 7:19)

2. Joshua told him to glorify God by confessing his sin.

3. God had his whole family killed yet the Lord was exonerated because this punishment was just.

4. A holy God has the right to judge evil in men.

5. Confession of sin not only opens communion between us and God but it also frees God to punish when necessary.

a. Israel had become afraid of the Philistines and went to get the Ark of the Covenant, which gave them great confidence. (1 Samuel 5)

b. This put fear into the hearts of the Philistines.

c. In spite of this the Philistines prevailed and captured the ark, placing it in the temple of Dagon.

d. Dagon fell overnight in the presence of the Ark.

e. The Philistines also were smitten with a deadly plague or with tumors.

f. They sent the Ark back to Israel with a trespass offering because they admitted fault in violating the God of Israel.

g. They gave five golden tumors and five golden mice, letting the deity know they recognized he had justly afflicted them, glorifying the God of Israel.

h. We need to confess our sins and receive the chastening that is due.

i. Blaming others for our sins and faults does not glorify God.

j. Adam blamed God for the woman.

k. Eve blamed the serpent.

l. If we accept our won guilt, however, and God forgives us then grace has meaning.

D. We glorify God by trusting him.

1. Abraham trusted God in spite of difficult circumstances.

a. In his nineties he believed God for a child.

b. We live by faith, driving down highways, eating at restaurants, etc.

2. Hebrews 12 testifies of many that lived by faith.

a. This is hard to learn.

b. Seek God's kingdom and leave the problems to God.

c. Many Christians have anxiety because we don't trust God.

E. We glorify God by praising him. (Psalm 50:23)

1. We praise God by reciting his attributes, reciting his work, and being thankful.

a. In the Old Testament the psalms give us the content of praising God's attributes.

1. We confess that God is all wise.

2. We confess that he is loving.

b. Habakkuk glorified God in spite of terrible judgment coming on Israel.

c. I have trained myself to recite the attributes of God as I drive.

1. I reinforce in my mind who God is.

2. Praise strengthens us.

3. God is eternal, all wise, all knowing, all powerful etc.

2. We praise God by reciting his works.

a. Knowing what He's done in the past will help us believe for the future.

b. God created the world and put man into a perfect environment.

c. If He did this he can help us with our exams, etc.

3. Give thanks for God's character and his work.

a. Of the ten healed lepers only one came back to thank Christ. (Luke 17)

b. Thanks expresses genuine faith and also glorifies God.

F. We glorify God by prayer.

1. If we ask anything in Jesus name God promises to do it. (John 14:15-16)

2. God answers our prayers that he might be glorified.

3. The purpose of the church's existence is to put God on display.

G. We glorify God by bearing much fruit. (John 15:8)

1. We are changed into Christ's image by focusing on the glory of God.

2. Until we see this we will not glorify God correctly.

3. To God be glory in the church.