

Why the Church Exists

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I. Introduction.

- A. Texts: Ephesians 4:1-3.
- B. The place of the church is a very confused issue.

II. Paul calls himself the prisoner of the Lord.

- A. Despite being under Roman guard, he saw himself in prison because of the hand of the Lord.
- B. Ultimate answers lie in what is unseen, not what is seen.
- C. Behind Caesar is Christ.

III. In the face of great difficulty, the church needs to obey its orders.

- A. The church is not called to make its own orders--it is more than an organization.
- B. Paul always starts with the truth.
- C. The purpose of the church.
 - 1. The church ought to reflect the moral character of Jesus Christ to the world.
 - 2. Living for the praise of His glory, this is reflected in Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:9)
 - a. The secret of the church is that Christ lives in it.
 - b. This is also the message of the church.
 - c. The job of the church is to demonstrate the character of Jesus Christ.
 - d. A witness is one who declares and demonstrates. (I Peter 2:9)
 - e. The responsibility to fulfill the calling to witness is every person in the church.

IV. Where the church should start.

- A. The only message that the Christian has is the gospel.
- B. This is to be demonstrated in the good that believers do to others. (Ephesians 6)
- C. In a spiritual sense, Christ was the greatest revolutionist the world ever had.

D. The true Christian says that the greatest thing that ever happened to him was Christ, and the greatest message he has to offer is the gospel.

Application questions:

1. What is the mission of the church and how would you grade the church today with regard to fulfilling it? Explain.

2. What are some of the outstanding characteristics of Jesus that the church needs to reflect today in order to make an impact on the world?

3. What does it mean that the church should start with the gospel? Explain.
