



## PURPOSE

WHY DO WE EXIST?

WEEK 2

## NOTES

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## WARM-UP

- Describe your first day at a new school, job, or organization.
- Have you had a first impression of something that turned out very differently?
- What would you tell yourself of four years ago regarding belongingness?

# WORD

*"... if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.*

*1 Timothy 3:15*

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For some the church is a social network—a place to meet people. For others, it's a place to help raise their children. For others, it is a place for social justice. How we view something affects how we treat it. What is God's view of the church and, therefore, God's mission for it?

The purpose of the Church is to uphold and support the truth. It is like a buttress, A buttress supports, strengthens, and stabilizes a structure in ancient architecture. As a result, the Church preserves and protects the truth.

## 1. THE CHURCH EXISTS TO BRING GLORY TO GOD.

*"And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent."*

*Colossians 1:18*

The church exist to spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things. The only reason we exist is to magnify God's worth.

God's honor is the foundational motive for all ministry, the ultimate goal of all outreach, the invisible force driving our mission; it is the starting point of all we do. Our bottom line is the glory of God, not the success of a ministry. The chief end of man is to "honor God and to enjoy Him forever." This is why we do what we do.

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## 2. THE CHURCH EXISTS TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL.

*"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."*

*Mark 16:15-16*

Jesus didn't tell His apostles to go out into the world and make it a socially and politically better place. He didn't tell them to go out into the world and make it a better and more comfortable place to go to Hell from. Rather, the mission of the church is those outside of it. God desired for every congregation of the church of Christ to stand as a beacon of light in its environment, penetrating the darkness of sin by shedding forth the light of the gospel, the good news of Christ and His spreading kingdom.

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## 3. THE CHURCH EXIST SO THAT EVERY BELIEVER WILL WALK TOGETHER IN CHRIST.

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

*Ephesians 4:1-3*

As a church we value long-term relationships. We are after unity. Because the family is the foundation and validation for all ministry, we refuse to sacrifice our marriages and our children on the altars of temporal success. And because we believe God has called us to be a spiritual family, we reject the idea of disposable relationships and choose to walk in love, respect, and unity.

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# APPLICATION

- Do you feel that you belong to the body of Christ? Pray for His grace of salvation today. Thank Him for His unconditional love for you.
- Have you experienced not being accepted by others in the church? Pray for the perspective of God on this situation. Ask God to help you forgive those who have hurt you.
- Think of one person who you know that does not yet know Christ. Pray for this person to understand God's grace of belonging in His family.

# PRAYER

- Thank God for the daily grace He gives you to be in His will and accept others. Pray that you will be reminded of this grace daily.
- Ask God for grace so that you will not judge, but have His love and compassion toward others. Pray for a fresh anointing of His Spirit each day.
- Pray for those that need to understand that it is not by their own doing that they enter into the kingdom of God. Pray for them to have a personal encounter with God.



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