

# ***What is the Point of the Church?***

## **Study Questions**

### **Getting Started**

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. There seems to be many different views and opinions on the church. What are some that you are aware of? How do these views influence a persons opinion of the church?
3. Jesus makes it clear that He is the one who established the church. How does this truth contrast with the views and opinions in the previous question? (Read Matthew 16:17-18)
4. Pastor shared a brief definition of the church. What stood out to you from this definition? Is there anything that you would add?
5. Thinking about building a facility for our use, what insights can we glean from the Biblical definition of the church?
6. It is easy to think that Jesus has forgotten about the ministry of the local churches. Read Revelation 2:1-5. What are "take away" insights for our church and churches today?
7. What might be some consequences for believers and churches that choose to continue to teach God's truth when it conflicts with the views of our culture? What are our options?
8. There are many places today, outside of the church, that offer to help people change. Reflecting on 1 Timothy 3:14-15, how should the local church be different?
9. It is easy to care about someone in our church but not say anything. How does Hebrews 10:24-25 challenge us?
10. It is easy to feel that we have nothing to offer. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. What does verse 7 communicate about how God wants to use me?

### **Digging Deeper**

11. Contact someone this week you have been missing to see how they are doing.

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## **The God Questions**

*Sunday December 6, 2015*

*"And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*  
*Matthew 16:17-18 ESV*

**Definition:** The church is a group established by Jesus Christ that have accepted Him as Savior, being baptized by immersion and have gathered together in a local geographic location to for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission and Great Commandment.

### **So What is the Point of the Church?**

**To be Jesus'** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*  
*Matthew 16:18 ESV*

*"I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary."*

*Revelation 2:2-3 ESV*

*"But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent."*

*Revelation 2:4-5 ESV*

**A Place to Find the \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus.**

*“I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 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 3:14–15 ESV

*“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.”*  
1 Corinthians 12:4–6 ESV

*“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”*  
1 Corinthians 12:7 ESV

**How the Jesus Followers Handle the Truth**

**H\_\_\_\_\_ and H\_\_\_\_\_ it**  
*“He who has ears, let him hear.”* Matthew 13:9 ESV

**H\_\_\_\_\_ it rightly**  
*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”*  
2 Timothy 2:15 ESV

**H\_\_\_\_\_ it in MY heart**  
*“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”*  
Psalm 119:11 ESV

**H\_\_\_\_\_ it forth as the Word of Life**  
*“holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.”*  
Philippians 2:16 ESV

*“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”*  
Revelation 2:7 ESV

**A Place to Where \_\_\_\_\_ .**

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*  
Hebrews 10:24–25 ESV