

1. Why Do We Come to Church?

Matthew 4:12-17/Ephesians 2:11-16

Worship — turning our whole being toward God

- **Reconnection** — religion as (L) *religare*, “to bind again”
- **Confession** — acknowledging we are sinners
- **Relationship** — returning to the One who made and redeemed us

Romans 3:23 — “*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*”

We come because we are **lost, broken, and in need of grace.**

2. The Purpose of Life

- **Glorify God** — 1 Corinthians 10:31
- **Do good works** — Ephesians 2:10
- **Walk humbly** — Micah 6:8
- **Love God & neighbor** — Mark 12:30–31

Life is not about achievement or self-fulfillment. It is about **knowing God, loving God, and reflecting His glory.**

3. Falling Short of the Glory of God

“Sin is missing the mark... losing the divine image... failing to give God honor.”

- **Missing the mark** (*hamartia*)/**Losing God’s image/Failing to honor God**

But God’s response:

Romans 3:24–26 — We are **justified freely** by grace through Christ.

The Church is the place where we remember:

We are sinners/Christ is Savior/Grace is given/New life begins

4. The Purpose of the Church (*Ekklesia*)

“*Ekklesia* = the called-out ones.”

Church is: Not a building, Not an event, Not a club

Church is: A called-out people/A holy community/A Kingdom assembly/

A body with authority to represent Christ

Rather than a physical building, it refers to a community of believers summoned by God to gather, worship, and carry out His purposes.

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20) - Go/Make disciples/Baptize/Teach obedience/Trust His presence. The Church exists to **form disciples who transform the world.**

Eugene Peterson, “**The local congregation is the place and community for listening to and obeying Christ’s commands, for inviting people to consider and respond to Jesus’ invitation, “Follow me,” a place and community for worshipping God.**”

5. What Should We Do in the Church? — Five Biblical Functions

1) Worship — *Liturgia*

Exodus 20:8, Offering praise/Turning to God on behalf of the world/Rooting our lives in God's holiness

2) Proclamation — *Kerygma*

Mark 1:14–15, Preaching the gospel/Calling for repentance/Announcing the Kingdom/Sharing Christ's salvation

3) Training — *Didache*

Ephesians 4:20, Learning Christ/Being formed as apprentices of Jesus/Living the biblical story/Practicing discipleship

4) Fellowship — *Koinonia*

John 13:34, Loving one another/Practicing hospitality/Sharing life/Seeking forgiveness and reconciliation/Living as a community of truth and compassion

5) Service — *Diakonia*

John 13:5, Serving like Jesus/Caring for the vulnerable/Meeting needs/Living sacrificially/Becoming Christ's hands and feet.

Eugene Peterson, **“The Holy Spirit forms the church to be a colony of heaven in the country of death... Church is a core element in the strategy of the Holy Spirit for providing human witness and physical presence to the Jesus-inaugurated kingdom of God in this world.”**

6. The Role of the Pastor (UMC)

1. **Word** — preaching, teaching, proclaiming
2. **Sacrament** — baptism & communion
3. **Order** — guiding the life and mission of the church
4. **Service** — pastoral care, outreach, justice

Pastors call people to **repent, follow Jesus, and grow in holiness.**

Howard A. Snyder, **“the primary role of the church is to advance God's Kingdom rather than merely preserve itself.” “Their core role is to decentralize ministry by empowering the congregation, building an organic community, and advancing God's broader kingdom rather than just managing "church business".”**

7. Conclusion: Why We Come to Church

- To worship God/To receive grace/To be formed as disciples
- To love one another/To serve the world/To join God's mission
- To live for His glory

The Church is where **God gathers His people**, shapes them, and sends them out.