

The Mission of the Church

June 13, 2019

Ephesians 4:11-13 ESV

11 **And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,**
12 **to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up (*oikodomē* - edifying, erecting a building, the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness and holiness) the body of Christ,**
13 **until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.**

The mission and focus of the Church:

- *to promote, encourage and facilitate spiritual growth in our brothers and sisters.*
- *the task will never be finished nor end here on earth, with verse 13 as the end-goal.*
- *is of eternal importance and consequence.*

Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV

19 *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*
20 *built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,*
21 *in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.*
22 *In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

Hebrews 3:12-14 ESV

12 *Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.*
13 *But exhort (*parakaleō* - to call to one's side, beseech, comfort, intreat, exhort, encourage, strengthen) one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*
14 *For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.*

Hebrews 10:23-27 ESV

23 *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.*
24 *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,*
25 *not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging (*parakaleō* - to call to one's side, beseech, comfort, intreat, exhort, encourage, strengthen) one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*
26 *For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,*
27 *but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.*

Ephesians 4:14-16 ESV

14 **so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.**
15 **Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,**

16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

The purpose and focus of being the church assembly is growth which is characterized by maturity (verse 13) and stability (verse 14).

- *Maturity is measured by Christlikeness.*

How "Like-Christ" are we in thought, word, action and lifestyle?

- *Stability is measured by purity, conviction and endurance.*

- *PURITY - how seduced are we by sin, the flesh and the world? How separated are we? How separate are we from the world? How separate are we unto God?*

2 Timothy 4:10 ESV

10 For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.

- *CONVICTION - do we know what we believe or are we attracted to religious fads and gimmicks?*

2 Timothy 4:3 ESV

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,

- *ENDURANCE - will our faith outlast our trials, or will we grow weary and quit?*

Galatians 6:9 ESV

9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 ESV

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,

4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

- EVANGELISM is neither an add-on nor an after-thought.
- EVANGELISM is the natural consequence of the spiritual growth resulting from being the Body of Christ.