

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH – PART 2

Pastor Rick Reager - January 16, 2022

I. GOD'S PURPOSES FOR THE CHURCH (REVIEW)

Matthew 22:36-40 / Matthew 28:18-20

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

KEY: THESE PURPOSES ARE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH _____

Hebrews 10:25 / Acts 2:43-47

II. HOW THE CHURCH IS TO FUNCTION

¹²The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up only one body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into Christ's body by one Spirit, and we have all received the same Spirit.

¹⁴Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. ¹⁵If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am only an ear and not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷Suppose the whole body were an eye—then how would you hear? Or if your whole body were just one big ear, how could you smell anything?

¹⁸But God made our bodies with many parts, and he has put each part just where he wants it. ¹⁹What a strange thing a body would be if it had only one part! ²⁰Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. ²¹The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

²²In fact, some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary. ²³And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect from the eyes of others those parts that should not be seen, ²⁴while other parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. ²⁵This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other equally. ²⁶If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

²⁷Now all of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.

²⁸Here is a list of some of the members that God has placed in the body of Christ:

first are apostles,	those who have the gift of healing,
second are prophets,	those who can help others,
third are teachers,	those who can get others to work together,
then those who do miracles,	those who speak in unknown languages.

²⁹Is everyone an apostle? Of course not. Is everyone a prophet? No. Are all teachers? Does everyone have the power to do miracles? ³⁰Does everyone have the gift of healing? Of course not. Does God give all of us the ability to speak in unknown languages? Can everyone interpret unknown languages? No! ³¹And in any event, you should desire the most helpful gifts." 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

1. THE CHURCH IS TO FUNCTION _____

Like Each Member Of The Body, I am _____ To Do _____

“⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.” 1 Corinthians 12:7

“²⁷ Now all of you together are Christ’s body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it. ²⁸ Here is a list of some of the members that God has placed in the body of Christ: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who can get others to work together, those who speak in unknown languages. ²⁹ Is everyone an apostle? Of course not. Is everyone a prophet? No. Are all teachers? Does everyone have the power to do miracles? ³⁰ Does everyone have the gift of healing? Of course not. Does God give all of us the ability to speak in unknown languages? Can everyone interpret unknown languages? No! ³¹ And in any event, you should desire the most helpful gifts.” 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

2. THE BODY _____

“⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.” Romans 12:4-5

“¹⁴ Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. ¹⁵ If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am only an ear and not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷ Suppose the whole body were an eye—then how would you hear? Or if your whole body were just one big ear, how could you smell anything?” 1 Corinthians 12:14-17

“²⁷ Now all of you together are Christ’s body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27

If I Don’t Do My Job, _____

3. I NEED THE BODY (& ALL _____)

“²⁰ Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. ²¹ The eye can never say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” 1 Corinthians 12:20-21

“¹⁶ Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” Ephesians 4:16

I Am To Function (Minister & Grow) Within The Context Of _____

Alone, It Is Virtually Impossible To _____ & _____

III. HOW CAN I MAXIMIZE WHAT I GET FROM MY CHURCH?

1. SINCE I AM _____, ADOPT _____

“⁴ You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. ⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What’s more, you are his holy priests.” 1 Peter 2:4-5

“¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” Ephesians 4:16

2. _____ **EACH PURPOSE REGULARLY** ^{“27} *All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27*

KEY: WHEN I FOCUS PROPER ATTENTION ON EACH PURPOSE, _____;
WHEN WE ALL DO THIS, _____

3. **BE _____, & FOCUS MORE ON _____ THAN _____**
^{“35} *You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35*

^{“28} *For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28*

4. **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF _____**
^{“16} *Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. 17 Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.” Ephesians 5:16-17*

^{“24} *Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25*

^{“26} *Well, my brothers and sisters, let’s summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you.” 1 Corinthians 14:26*

5. **WHEN I FEEL LIKE A NEED ISN’T BEING MET, LOOK FOR WAYS TO _____**
_____ MORE COMPLETELY ^{“33} *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:33*

6. _____ **I’M PLANTED**
See examples in Acts & the Epistles of Paul

7. **BE AWARE THAT WHEN I FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE, CHALLENGED, IRRITATED, OR UNEASY, GOD IS _____**

^{“2} *Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.” James 1:2-4*

^{“1} *Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. 2 Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. 3 Always keep yourselves united in the Holy Spirit, and bind yourselves together with peace.” Ephesians 4:1-3*

^{“12} *Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. 16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.” Colossians 3:12-17*