



iBelieve In The Church

(Genesis 1:1, 26)

- Introduction:
1. The church has always had its detractors: “Yes” to Jesus, “No” to the church.
 2. However, when one compares man’s view of the church with God’s view, he sees quite a difference.
 3. (Acts 20:28).
 4. (1 Peter 1:10-11; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:16, 3:1-13)

I. What Is The Purpose of the Church

- A. Some of the complaints that are raised against the church today are well founded.
- B. When a church loses it’s way, it gets in the way.
- C. I have often heard it said that the mission of the church is evangelism, benevolence, and edification.
 1. While evangelism, benevolence, and edification are the works of the church, they are not the mission of the church.
 2. These three works of the church are ways in which one fulfills the mission of the church which is to bring glory to God.
- C. The mission of the church is summed up in Ephesians 3:21.
 1. “To him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

II. How To Live Out This Purpose

- A. We can accomplish this mission by being Jesus’ point of contact with the world today (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:13-27; Galatians 2:20).
- B. Jesus needs our lips through which to speak, our hands through which to minister, and our feet to take the gospel of peace to the world.
- C. Without submitting ourselves to this purpose, the church becomes a wall rather than a door.
- D. Jesus was about people, so the church should be too.
 1. Teach (Mark 16:15-16; 2 Timothy 4:2).
 2. Show Compassion (Acts 10:38).
 3. Encouragement (Romans 14:19; Hebrews 3:13).

- Conclusion:
1. iBelieve in the church of Jesus Christ.
 2. We’re far from perfect, but isn’t that just another testimony to the power of God?
 3. As imperfect as I am, God can even work through me!