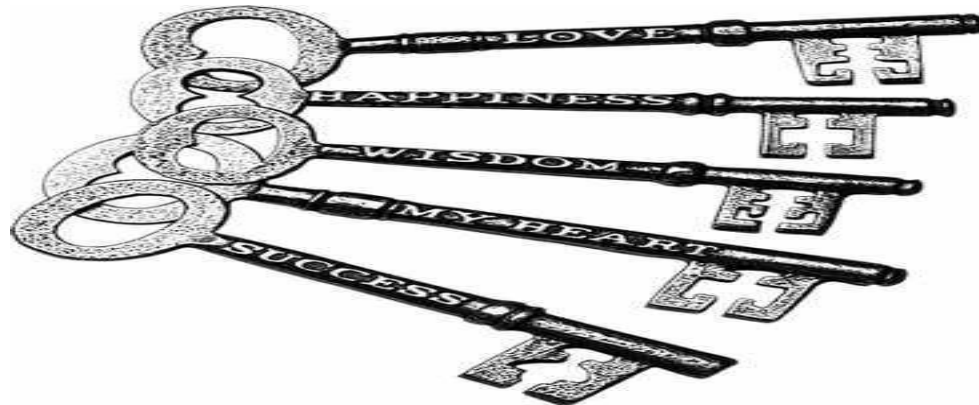


THE CHURCH ON PURPOSE

Keys to Effective church Leadership



Notes from *The Church On Purpose* by Joe S. Ellis

DOCTRINAL COMMITMENT 4: I WILL SHARE MY FAITH AND INVITE PEOPLE TO CHURCH

WE BELIEVE in the great commission and that it is every believers' duty to share the gospel with men and women of all races, ethnicities, and socio-economic status; leading them to the belief and the new birth experienced, followed by a life of discipleship unto good works. (Matthew 5:13-16, c10, 28:18-20, Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 3:15-17; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16, 2 Corinthians 5)

Mark 16:15 NKJV

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’”

Matthew 24:14 NKJV

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

Psalms 96:3 NKJV

“Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.”

Acts 4

OVER-ARCHING THOUGHTS

- PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH
- MESSAGE OF THE CHURCH
- METHODS OF THE CHURCH

The purpose of the church is to **evangelize** the world and move children of God to a mature and sanctified life in Christ which produces works of righteousness and an increase in the churches ability to lead more people to Christ.

The message of the Church is capsulized in the **Gospel** message which saves the soul and meets the needs of all aspects of a person's life.

The methods of the Church can be multifaceted. We must carry out God's Will by using methods that **will work** in today's and tomorrow's world.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

- **PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH**
- **UNCHANGING**
- **MESSAGE OF THE CHURCH**
- **UNCHANGING**
- **METHODS OF THE CHURCH**
- **ALWAYS EVOLVING AND CHANGING**

Scriptural Texts: Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, Ephesians 4:1-13, 2 Timothy 2:15, Revelation 11:15, Proverbs 8: 12, Proverbs 11:30,

THE POWER OF PURPOSE

"And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

Luke 2:49

PURPOSEFULNESS

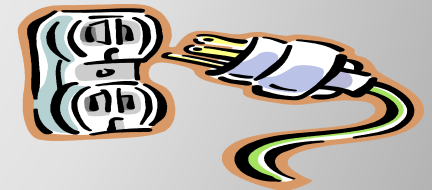
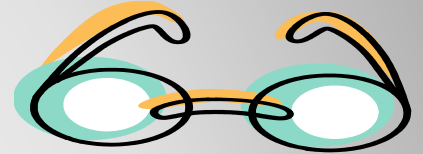
What Are We Seeking To Accomplish?



Dynamic individuals and vital groups of people have at least one characteristic in common: they know where they are going, they have a plan for getting there, and they work wholeheartedly at the job.

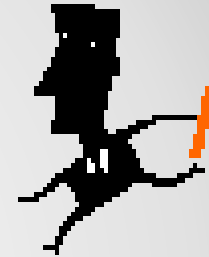
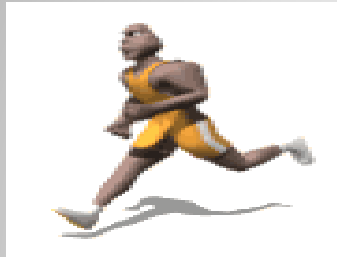
Key Thoughts Concerning Purposefulness

- Successful people have a clear, strong sense of purpose, around which they center their whole lives.
- Purpose integrates life into a consistent, harmonious whole.
- Purpose provides a driving power, a compelling sense of urgency, that generates and marshals energy.
- Purpose is a fundamental characteristic of man, and is essential to life.

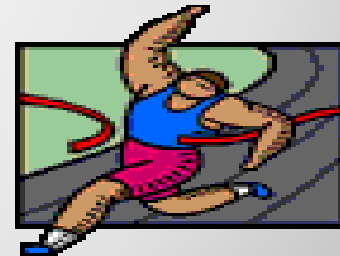
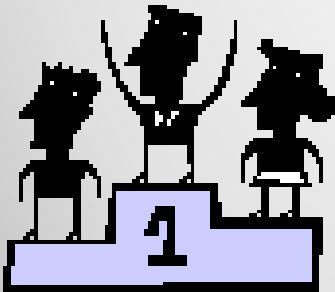


1 Corinthians 9:24-26

- **²⁴Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.**



- **²⁵And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.**



- **²⁶I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:**

RATIONALITY

How Well Are We Doing It?



The effective congregation holds a clear, authentic purpose in common commitment among its members. Its activities or programs are related to its purpose through a carefully worked out rationale. Purpose functions as the touchstone for every thought, decision, plan, and action.

Can all of the congregation's programs and actions clearly relate to one of the following??

- Winning people to Christ
- Helping Christians incorporate into their lives the details of the Christian way
- Helping the congregation to function as the body of Christ
- Equipping Christians to perform as God's agents in the world where they live, work and interact in society

The Church on Purpose Affects the World because it is Marked By...

Tough-mindedness in evaluating their efforts and clear-eyed in deciding what to do.

A willingness to do whatever is necessary, no matter what the cost.



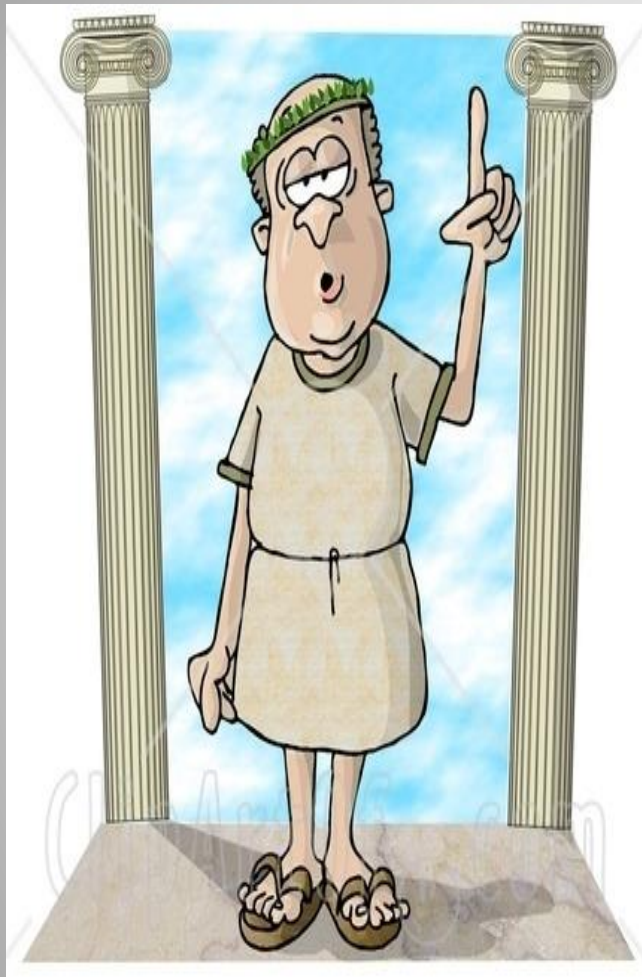
A high sense of mission; acting as an alien community and as a task force with a God-given objective.

Weighing every decision and evaluating every consideration in light of how it contributes to accomplishing Christ's mission.



THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all
pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and
increasing in the knowledge of God;”
Colossians 1:10



A philosophy is the ground out of which decisions and practices grow. It is the standard by which ideas are tested, the compass by which to plan and move ahead.

Adequate

Explicit

**Gives rise to
cohesive, consistent
thought and action**

We employ it

**Behavior is likely to
be deliberate,
intentional, rational,
productive**

Inadequate

Implicit

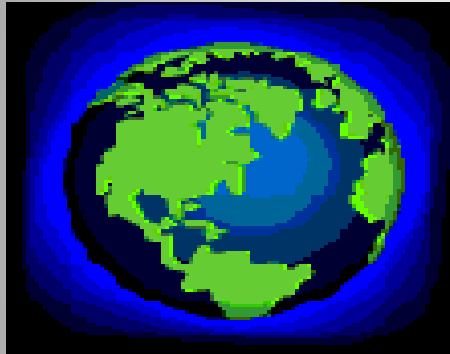
**Gives rise to random,
contradictory thought
and action**

We are at its mercy

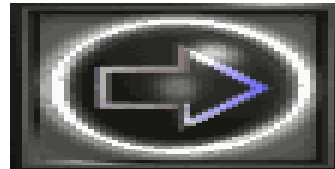
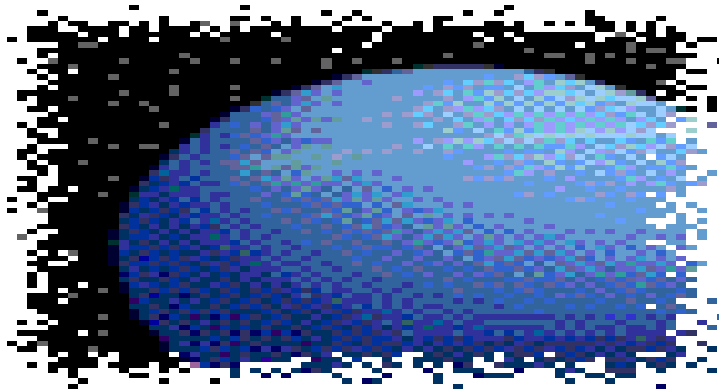
**Behavior is likely to be
reactive, irrational,
unproductive**

A Philosophy of the Church

In The Beginning
Gen. 1:1



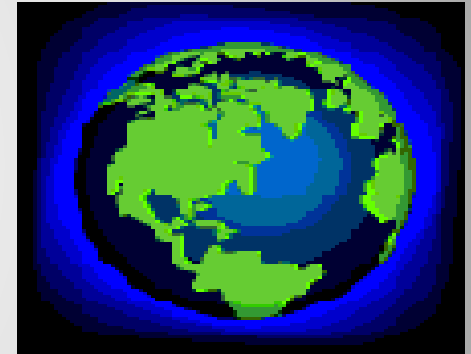
The Fall
Gen. 3: 6 through the Savior
Matthew 1: 21-22



The Nature

From the beginning, God planned to restore all things to His originally intended state without violating His own principles for interacting with man (Ephesians 1: 3-14). Since the Church has been reconciled to God, it is its nature to be agents of reconciliation.

Restoration
Rev. 21:1



The Church
Acts 2:1-4



The Church is a Distinctive Body Who:

1. Have been reconciled to God through a decisive response to Jesus Christ as Savior.
2. Through a commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord, deliberately incorporate into life the ways of thought and conduct revealed by Him as God's design for living. They are in the world, but not of the world.
3. Function together in congregations, implementation of the intended relationship: love.
4. Aggressively engage the world, seeking to enlist others as disciples of Jesus Christ, so that the number of the saved increases and the number of the lost diminishes.
5. Anticipate the full and final restoration of all things to God's perfect intention.



Twin Processes of the Church

Evangelism

1. Directed toward the unsaved
2. Salvation
3. Reconciles man to God
4. Restores relationship and capability
5. Inducts individuals into the community of God's people
6. Initial function
7. Recruits followers
8. Birth
9. Quantitative growth of the church
10. Carried out by all Christians
11. Takes place wherever Christians contact the unsaved, but primarily in the world
12. Uses contacts for witnessing, preaching the gospel, and teaching
13. Objectives is that people accept Christ as Savior and Lord
14. Carries promise of divine presence
15. Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Nurture

1. Directed toward Christians
2. Application of Salvation
3. Reconciles man's ways to God's ways
4. Restores function
5. Edifies individuals towards maturity or full functioning.
6. Continuing functions
7. Equips followers to live and serve
8. Growth
9. Qualitative growth of the church
10. Carried out by all Christians
11. Takes place wherever Christians are in contact, especially church
12. Uses fellowship, teaching the Word, and training in needed skills
13. Objectives are: (a) to help Christians live Christ's way more fully; (b) to help them find and develop their gifts so they may function fully within the church; (c) to provide for growth and training so that each member may be equipped for his role in the world
14. Carries promise of divine presence
15. Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Evangelism

Nurture

- Personal Christian Living

Personal Christian living: Nurture provides for the transformation of the details of thought and action into the revolutionary lifestyle that characterizes the followers of Jesus.

Evangelism

Nurture

- Personal Christian living
- Functioning in the body of Christ

Functioning in the body of Christ: Nurturing also enables Christians to fit harmoniously and productively into the Christian community---the Church.

Evangelism

Nurture

- Personal Christian living
- Functioning in the body of Christ
- Functioning in the World

Functioning in the world: Finally nurture equips Christians to live deliberately as God's people in the world.

THE GOOD NEWS

For Leaders

The good news for churches and their leaders is this: Radically new forms, structures, programs, or personnel are not required for churches to become more effective.



4

CONDITIONS OF A CHURCH ON PURPOSE

Committed People

Equipped People

Fellowship

Spiritual Power

Committed People

The Basic Unit of Responsibility

The church is the product of God's purpose and, at the same time, the instrument by which that purpose is furthered. It consists of people who are restored to the proper relationship with God and who are being restored to life as God designed it.

In this final epoch in His plan—the Christian era--God works through the followers of Jesus Christ. This body of people—of many peoples, tongues, and races—are His indispensable partners in the task.

Equipping the People

The equipping concept adjusts the focus of ministry. A minister who seeks to equip his people for service is not merely a chaplain who renders service to his clients. He works to enable other Christians to achieve God's purposes. The Christian who receives instruction or training should transmit to others what he has received.

The forty-year-old Christian who has been consistently active in the normal program of a congregation since age eighteen has been exposed to:

4,000 hours of Preaching

1,800 hours	=	Bachelor's Degree
1,350 hours	=	Master of Divinity
850 hours	=	Doctorate

Fellowship

(Koinonia: communion by intimate participation)

Christian fellowship is profoundly interconnected with the purpose of the Church. IN the first place, restoring a particular kind of relationship among Christian in the body of Christ is itself an element of the divine purpose.

When functioning properly, fellowship provides the conditions under which Christians receive the help they need to incorporate Biblical principles into their day-to-day lives.

Spiritual Power

The church is the instrument God created and commissioned as the means through which He presently pursues His purposes in the world. The church, then, can expect Him to provide the resources necessary for its task.

When the church began, the followers of Jesus were a small congregation of some 120 people. Three thousand new people joined them the day they began their mission. Their number increased daily, soon reaching 5,000.

Bible Study & Prayer

Problems that Hinder Purpose



Routine

Routine can settle in almost imperceptibly, in such a way God's purpose for His Church is assumed and therefore neglected. Unless the Church can ward off such processes, its vital qualities may deteriorate:

Organism into organization

Community into association

Mission orientation into maintenance orientation

Fellowship into formality

Function into form

Success-seeking into survival-seeking

Pursuit of accomplishment into pursuit of convenience

Discipleship into churchmanship

The work of the church into church work

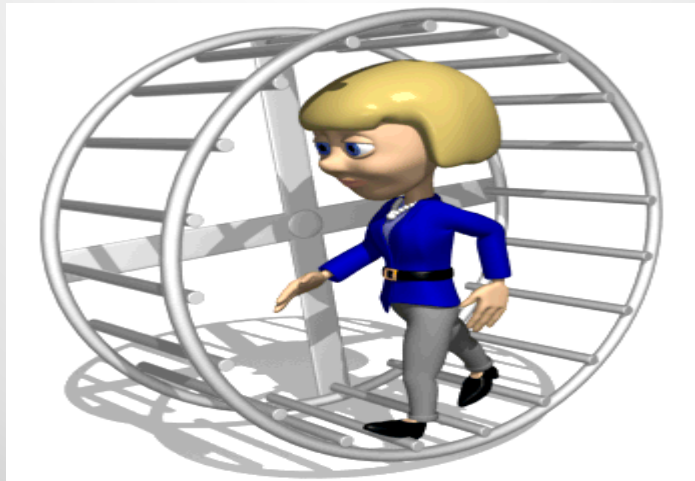
Leadership into bureaucracy

Team members into spectators or clients

Purpose into routine.

Activity Trap

We tend to confuse busyness with effectiveness. As long as the wheels are spinning, committees are meeting, and people are rushing here and there, we feel confident something must be getting done.



Formalism

Forms are important; those that are divinely established are imperative. God's forms must be followed, and expedient forms must be carefully chosen, but both must be followed in such a deliberate way that the essential purposes are fulfilled through them. To concentrate on the form while neglecting its purpose is to misuse any form.

The Pharisees were Biblical legalists, but they were not committed to God's purposes and priorities.

Leadership and Purpose

- Leadership is the function that fosters and maintains a congregation's focus on divine purpose, promotes rational efforts to achieve it, and keeps counterproductive processes in abeyance.
- Leadership operates between two poles: people on one hand, and their goals on the other. It is the function of helping that body of people move toward achieving their goals.
- The highest emblem of Christian leadership is not the whip of the lion tamer, but the towel and basin.
- Christian leaders help congregations discover who they are, why they are here, where they ought to be, where they are now, what resources and opportunities they have, what problems and needs exist, and how to get from where they are to where they ought to be.