



Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 6 – THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH
LESSON 96 – PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH

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PRBC Church Constitution/Bylaws

- ▶ This congregation exists in order to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37), to worship God alone (Luke 4:8; Revelation 22:9), to advance the Kingdom of God around the world through the making of disciples of all people (Matthew 28:19-20), to equip believers in Jesus Christ for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 8:29), and to preach and teach the Word of God (Romans 1:16-17; Mark 16:15).
- ▶ The Church is formed to advance the Kingdom of God in obedience to the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ as found in the Holy Scriptures by glorifying God in all we do (1 Corinthians 10:31), loving the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37), worshipping God alone (Luke 4:8; Revelation 22:9), making disciples of all people (Matthew 28:19-20), equipping believers in Jesus Christ for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 8:29), and preaching and teaching the Word of God (Romans 1:16-17; Mark 16:15).

Proclaiming the Gospel for the Glory of God

- ▶ The church exists to display the wisdom and mercy of God in this age (Eph. 3:10; Rom. 9:23-24; 11:33; 1 Cor. 1:20-31) by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).
- ▶ Through the preaching of the gospel, sinners from every ethnic background (Rev. 5:9-10) will be rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into the kingdom of God (Col. 1:12-13).
- ▶ The New Testament Church will one day reign with Christ in glory (1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Tim. 2:11-13; Rev. 20:4-6).
- ▶ As the church relates to its members, they exist to glorify God (Eph. 1:5-6, 12-14; 3:20-21; 2 Thess. 1:12) by actively building its members up in the faith (Eph. 4:12-16), faithfully teaching the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17), regularly observing the ordinances (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38-42), proactively fostering fellowship among believers (Acts 2:42-47; 1 John 1:3), and boldly communicating the truth of the gospel to the lost (Matt. 28:19-20).
- ▶ Exaltation – Edification - Evangelism

Ministry to God – Exaltation (Worship)

- ▶ Because God is zealous for His glory (Isa. 48:9-11; 43:6-7; 49:3), His people should likewise be consumed with a desire to glorify and exalt Him (1 Cor. 10:31).
- ▶ Consequently, a faithful church is God centered, not man centered.
- ▶ The church has been redeemed so that believers might glorify Him both by serving one another (1 Peter 4:11) and by proclaiming “the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).
- ▶ Whenever the church gathers, worship ought to be the ultimate priority (John 4:23-24). Worship consists of ascribing honor to God that He is due, declaring His glory both in words of praise (Psa. 29:2; 95:6; 99:5, 9; Heb. 12:28) and through acts of obedience (Rom. 12:1).

Ministry to God – Exaltation (Worship)

- ▶ True worship necessarily includes the exaltation of Jesus Christ, whom the Father has exalted by giving Him a name that is above every name (Phil. 2:9; Acts 5:31).
- ▶ Christ is “exalted above the heavens” (Heb. 7:26).
- ▶ For all eternity the redeemed will praise His name (Rev. 4:10; 5:12-13; 7:12; 14:7; 15:4).
- ▶ Meanwhile, the church is the one sphere on earth where Christ’s name is truly and genuinely exalted.

Ministry to God – Exaltation (Worship)

- ▶ According to Scripture, elements of worship include:
- ▶ 1. Preaching (Apostles Doctrine, includes teaching/reading the Word)
- ▶ 2. Fellowship
- ▶ 3. Prayer (and fasting on occasions)
- ▶ 4. Ordinances (Lord's Supper and Baptism)
- ▶ 5. Praise (singing Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs)
- ▶ 6. Thanksgiving (including Giving of Tithes and Offerings)
- ▶ Acts 2:42; Ephesians 5:19; 1 Thess. 5:16-22

Ministry to God – Exaltation (Worship)

- ▶ Distinctives of our church include following a model for worship regulated by the Holy Scriptures. Following the example given to us in Acts 2:42 we teach the “apostles doctrine” by way of expository preaching and the public reading of the Word of God, we “fellowship” and prove our love for one another in the body as often as we have opportunity, we partake of the ordinances, the Lord’s Table by the “breaking of bread” observing the Lord’s Supper weekly and the Baptism of believers as necessary, and we are a church of “prayer.” We find further direction for corporate worship in Ephesians 5:18-21 in the singing of “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.” Other elements of our worship include occasions of individual and corporate fasting (Matthew 6:16-18) and the giving of thanks including freely and cheerfully giving our tithes and offerings to the Lord (1 Thess. 5:16-21; 2 Cor. 9:6-8). In our worship and our lives we strive to be God focused, Christ exalting, Spirit filled, and Bible centered. Our aim is to glorify God in everything we do – making it a priority to live “by the Book.”

Ministry to Believers – Equipping and Edification

- ▶ In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul described a typical meeting of the church with the words, “Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.” (1 Cor. 14:26).
- ▶ He also gives this encouragement in 1 Thess. 5:11 “Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”
- ▶ Edification comes by the ministry of the Word (Acts 20:32; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Peter 2:2), the mentoring of godly leadership (Eph. 4:11-12), the selfless exercise of spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10), and the practice of the “one another” commands.

Ministry to Believers – Equipping and Edification

- ▶ The One Another Commands:
- ▶ Love one another – Rom. 12:10; 13:8; 1 Thess. 3:12; 4:9; 2 Thess. 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:22; 4:8; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11-12; 2 John 5
- ▶ Live in harmony and peace with one another – Rom. 12:16; 15:5; Gal. 5:26; 1 Thess. 5:12-14
- ▶ Welcome one another – Rom. 5:7; 16:16
- ▶ Admonish one another – Rom. 15:14; Col. 3:16
- ▶ Care for one another – 1 Cor. 12:25
- ▶ Serve one another – Gal. 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10

Ministry to Believers – Equipping and Edification

- ▶ Bear one another's burdens – Gal. 6:2
- ▶ Be patient with one another – Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:13
- ▶ Be kind to one another – Eph. 4:32
- ▶ Forgive one another – Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13
- ▶ Sing praises with one another – Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
- ▶ Regard one another as more important than oneself – Phil. 2:3
- ▶ Speak truth to one another – Col. 3:9
- ▶ Encourage one another – 1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11; Heb. 3:13; 10:25
- ▶ Seek good for one another – 1 Thess. 5:15

Ministry to Believers – Equipping and Edification

- ▶ Stir up one another to love and good works – Heb. 10:24; 1 Tim. 6:17-18
- ▶ Confess yours sins to one another – James 5:16
- ▶ Pray for one another – James 5:16
- ▶ Be hospitable to one another – 1 Peter 4:9
- ▶ Be humble toward one another – 1 Peter 5:5
- ▶ The biblical context of these commands indicates that they are primarily intended to govern the believer's relationship to fellow Christians within the church. Our gospel transformation is made visible and verifiable when seen by the watching world – John 13:35.
- ▶ PRBC Church Membership Covenant:
<https://providencercbc.org/2009/01/27/church-membership-covenant/>

Ministry to the Lost - Evangelism

- ▶ A church that is passionately pursuing the glory of God will likewise have a strong emphasis on evangelism, both locally and around the world.
- ▶ This is Jesus' commission to His Church:
- ▶ Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Ministry to the Lost - Evangelism

- ▶ True evangelism involves making disciples (which is not merely convincing unbelievers to make a decision). As sinners respond in saving faith to the message of the gospel, they are to be initiated into the church through baptism and disciplined by the church through sound teaching and loving accountability.
- ▶ The pattern of disciple making was established by Jesus, who sought to make disciples during His earthly ministry (Mark 1:16-22; 2:14; John 8:31).
- ▶ True followers of Christ become “fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19), meaning that those who become His disciples are themselves then to become disciple makers.

Ministry to the Lost - Evangelism

- ▶ Because they understand the hope of eternal salvation (Titus 1:2; John 3:16; 11:25), and the converse reality of God's coming judgment (2 Cor. 5:11, 20; 2 Peter 3:11-5; Heb. 9:27), believers should be eager to proclaim the good news of salvation.
- ▶ The New Testament presents evangelism as the responsibility of church leaders (2 Tim. 4:5), individual Christians (1 Peter 3:15), and the church as a whole (1 Peter 2:9).
- ▶ The salvation of sinners brings glory to God and instills His people with a contagious joy (Luke 15:7, 10).
- ▶ Churches that ignore or devalue evangelism will experience stagnation and decline.

Jesus on Church Building

- ▶ “I will build My church.” – Matt. 16:18
- ▶ Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Next Lesson

- ▶ Lesson 97 – Biblical Dynamics of Church Life
- ▶ Devoted to Christ
- ▶ Devoted to Scripture
- ▶ Devoted to One Another
- ▶ Devoted to the Lord's Table
- ▶ Devoted to Prayer
- ▶ Results of Devotion