

Series: YAFI 2022

Title: What is the Purpose of the Church?

Def~It is God's Local, Visible, Called Out Assembly of Baptized believers who have covenanted together to carry out the Great Commission.

If our bodies are now the temple, why should we continue coming together?

I. It is a Command We Obey: (Heb 10:25)

II. It is a Need We Have:

To Encourage us: (Heb 10:24)

To Correct us: (1 Tim 5:20)

To Grow Our Faith: (Rom 10:17)

III. It is a Service We Perform:

The Church is the Body of Christ: (Col 1:18)(Eph 1:22-23)

Christ's Physical Body shows the Father to us: (Jn 14:9)

Christ's Church Body shows Christ to the World: (Acts 1:8)

The Church is the Pillar & Ground of the Truth: (1 Tim 3:15)

The Church has a 3 fold Mission: (Matt 28:19-20)

To Evangelize the Lost:

To Identify the Saved with Christ & His Doctrine

To Train the Saved: (2 Tim 2:2)

IV. It is an Honor We Observe:

The Church is the Bride of Christ:

A Bride, is not a bride until their wedding day!

We Are Betrothed to Christ: (2 Cor 11:2)

The Holy Spirit is calling out a bride now.

The Church becomes the Bride at the wedding: (Eph 5:27)

When she is caught up & presented unto the Bridegroom:

Why is it that most churches follow a similar format?

There are some Cultural Differences across the Earth.

Worship Him in Spirit and in Truth: (Jn 4:23-24)

We follow the example in the Acts of the Apostles.

Service included Prayer: (Acts 1:14)

Service included Teaching: (Acts 1:16-20)(Ps 69:25; 109:8)

Service Included the Ordination of Servants: (Acts 1:21-26)

Service included Testimonies of Praise: (Acts 2:11)

Service included Bible Preaching: (Acts 2:14-21)

Text Verse: (Joel 2:28-32)

Companion Verses: (Ps 16:8-11)

Service included the Gospel of Jesus: (Acts 2:22-40)

Service included an Altar Call: (Acts 2:37-40)

Service included a Baptism: (Acts 2:41)

Sometimes the Pastor goes long & people fall asleep: (Acts 20:7-10)

Service included a Fellowship Time & a Meal: (Acts 2:11)

Is Church primarily for believers, or sinners?

If done properly, It's for Both:(Salvation, Separation, Service)

A Challenge to the Lost to Get Saved.

A Challenge to the Saved to Separate from the World.

A Challenge to the Separated to Serve.

The story of Isaac & Rebekah= Christ & His Church.

The Story of Jacob Illustrates our Church experience.

I. Church is where we connect with God: (Gen 28:12-15)

Jacob learns about the messiah. (Vs 12)

(John 1:45-51) Jesus was pictured in the Ladder.

(Vs 50-51) Is that all it takes to WOW you! Hang On!

New Dependance: Jacob was going to have to rely on God's strength from now on.

New Identity: A Prince with God.

A Person who Struggles, but God Prevails.

I. Church is a Conversation:

The House of God is where Is & God Speaks.

(Vs 13-15) God spoke to Jacob

(Vs 20-22) Jacob speaks to God

God promised this to Moses: (Ex 25:22)

3 Ways God's speaks during Church:

1. **Correction:** Not bad, but a good thing.

2. **Direction:** Not a bad thing, but a good thing.

3. **Inspiration:**

III. Church is a Commitment: (Gen 28:18-22)

(Matt 6:21)(Mal 3:10-12)

IV. Church is a Place of Change: (Gen 28:10)

God tells Jacob, Go back and face your Past: (Gen 31:13)

Jacob comes back to Bethel: (Gen 32:9-12)

(Gen 32:24-25) Jacob wrestled with God over his past

(Gen 32:26) Jacob wants God to Bless Him!

(Gen 32:27-28) Jacob is Changed!

(Gen 32:29) Jacob is Blessed.

(Gen 32:30) God's blessings were a New Dependance & New Identity.