**THE PURPOSE OF GOD’S PLAN AND THE CHURCH**

The church is “in Christ” and works “within God’s word” to accomplish her God given purpose. The Lord often brings chastening (training) and correction (word) for His purposes to be fulfilled.

The Lord Jesus after His resurrection corrected and admonished the seven churches in Asia Minor recorded in the book of Revelation.

The condition of these churches would be passed on to every generation as an example of the Lord’s chastening and correction.

God’s purpose is to consummate in Christ all He planned before the foundation of world. What Adam lost will be restored in the Last Adam, and more, the church being the means of God’s wisdom in accomplishing it.

**Christ addresses the church:**

**Ephesus**: Return to your first love

**Smyrna:** Endure suffering with faithfulness

**Pergamos:** Repent for embracing false teaching

**Thyatira:** Do not tolerate sexual immorality

**Sardis:** Wake up from spiritual lethargy

**Philadelphia:** keep on persevering and being faithful

**Laodicea:** repent of lukewarm faith

**THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL:**

The church is one body

The church has one Spirit

The church has one Head

The church has one Lord (Jesus Christ)

The church has one faith

All these factors working together unite the church, bringing all members together.

The church serves as the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

**As Christ’s body, the church seeks to accomplish His mission through** **three means:**

**ONE:** **WORSHIP**, Church reaches **UP** through its worship of God

1. Trust in God and His word
2. Express of gratefulness of what Christ has done for them
3. Believers offering him service 24/7 as designed by God

**Eph. 2:10**

“We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.”

**Ro. 12:1-2 NKJV**

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Paul writes to the church and is encouraging them to be “living sacrifices” with their lives dedicated to God and His purposes both holy and single-minded. **(Ro. 12:1-2)**

**Acts of Worship:**

1. Weekly meeting
2. Treatment of people
3. Daily work
4. Free time
5. Work time
6. Everything we say and do

We praise and thank God for all He has done for us. We worship Him for who He is and for His mighty attributes.

**TWO:** **EDIFICATION,** Church reaches **IN** through the personal discipleship of believers and spiritual objectives.

1. Shaped into the image of Christ Jesus **(Ro. 8:29; Col.1:15; II Cor. 4:4; Heb. 1:3)**
2. Become mature in Christ Jesus **(Eph.4:13; Col.1:28; Heb. 6:1;)**
3. Live in the grace and the knowledge of Christ Jesus **(Heb. 6:3; II Pet. 3:18)**
4. The work of sanctification **(I Thess. 5: 23-24)**
5. Promote spiritual growth through relationship and solid doctrinal teaching **(Eph. 4:15; Tit. 2:1-10; II Pet.1:5-6)**
6. Edification is a work of sanctification **(Lev. 11:44-45; Heb. 2:11-13, II Thess. 2:13; Jas. 1:22-25; Ro. 12:1-2; II Cor. 2:14-15.)**

The church promotes spiritual growth through relationships and solid doctrinal teaching.

**THREE:** **EVANGELISM**, Church reaches **OUT** through evangelism to the world around it.

1. Sharing Jesus to those who have the need of salvation
2. Make known the love of God for the sinner
3. Walk in His authority and presence to accomplish His will **St. Mat. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:9-20**

The Church reaches **UP**, **IN** and **OUT** are elements that empower believers to continue the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ around the world until the end of the Church age.

These are the principles of a healthy church and ministry.