

Speaking Truth In Love

The **church** is a divine not a man-made organization. God planned for it before time began (Eph 3:10-11). Its foundation was laid in Acts chapter 2. Jesus purchased it with His blood and He is Head over its construction (Acts 20:28; Eph 1:22; Matt 16:18).

Since the **church** is God's, then only He can determine its purpose. It exists to show His "manifold wisdom" and to bring Him "glory" (Eph 3:10, 21). This is accomplished when it does only the work that God has given it to do.

- 1. Teach and Defend the Truth (Gospel):** The **church** is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Tim 3:15; 1 Thess 1:8).
- 2. Edify Christians:** The **church** is to build up its members by teaching the Word of God (Eph 4:15-16; Acts 20:32).
- 3. Benevolence:** The **church** is to relieve Christians in need (Acts 6:1; Rom 15:26; 1 Tim 5:3-16). God did not stipulate a general benevolence fund for His church. However, each Christian is free to follow his conscience in the area of relieving human suffering (Lk 10:25-37; Gal 6:10).

The **church** in New Testament times performed only the works above, and by doing so it fulfilled God's eternal purpose. Today churches are involved in all kinds of work that God never authorized. The **church** does not exist to carry out men's wishes; its purpose is to glorify God by carrying out His work in His way.

Church of Christ
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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

