



Des Burrows
Home Church
06-03-2011

Let us wake up to our purpose and objective

We are the church – Yes or No?

We are the Ecclesia – The called out ones, the church of the living God.

Excerpt from our statement of faith.

We believe that the true Church consists of the community of true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who by faith have had their sins forgiven and been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Fellowship of all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, recognizing that the true Church is not confined to any one denomination.

Hebrews 12:23—24, 1 John 1:7, Ephesians 3:3—10, 1 Corinthians 1:9 Ephesians 4:3—6, 13, & 1 Corinthians 10:32

If we can confirm that and agree that this is who we are we now need to ask a question.

So what is our purpose?

Acts 2: 41-47 READ

I can break this chapter into three parts.

1. The Spirit fell on them
2. The Spirit came into them
3. The Spirit worked through them

But what we end up with is that we know the purpose of the church. What it is we have to do as the *ecclesia* “called out ones”.

Pentecost had just happened it was an amazing experience that many were asking about.

Peter then addresses the crowd to explain.
And his preaching is Christ and Him crucified.



You will never be able to correctly explain the move of the Spirit of God to unbelievers so you stick to the Gospel.

Christ was crucified for you.

*His head hung limp upon His chest
His tears fell to the ground
His breathing gasped out hoarsely
To the ears of all around*

*He felt the weight of curses
He wore the crown of sin
He saw His brother's faces
And His eyes began to brim*

*He felt the whip of lightning
As the skies began to close
The soldiers mocked His nakedness
And gambled for His clothes*

*His heart was filled with burdens
His body racked with pain
He bore mankind's infirmities
For all, who call His name*

*Sin entombed His countenance
His glory became dross
In silent isolation
The lamb upon the cross*

*The claws of death were clasping
Sorrow tore His heart
He cried out to the Father
But now, they were apart*

*He looked upon His people
He knew He had to die
He passed His last breath quietly
Before a blackened sky*



*The earth began to tremble
Creation stirred to mourn
And cries came from the temple
As the temple curtain tore*

*Disciples held their memories
His children watched with trust
And piercing through the King of Kings
A soldier's sword was thrust*

*His head hung limp upon His chest
Blood and water struck the ground
The winds called His name serenely
Still I hear that sound*

*They took Him to an ordained tomb
To lay His body down
But death could never hold Him
And He rose to take His crown*

*When waters rush and thunder rolls
And sin seeks its domain
I gently ask for Jesus
For there is no other name.*

Author Brendan Bentley

This is what you preach when an unbeliever does not understand or has questions about the church.

Remember when they question the church they are questioning us.

We are sinners saved by grace and hopefully we are living a good testimony.

BUT they can never refute or question what Jesus did for us.

I get off the point a little but Peter preached Jesus and then what happens.



Let's go back to Acts 2:41-47

About three thousand souls were added to their number.

The church is born.

And since that time millions upon millions have been added to the church.

Before we get into the purpose and objective of the church there is something else we need to know.

The church is also referred to in the bible as the Bride of Christ.

Ephesians 5: 25-27

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

So keep in mind when we discuss the purpose of the church or our purpose that we are the Bride and Jesus is the Groom.

And one day there will be a wedding that we the church will be a part of.

Revelations 19:9

⁹ Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

And I believe that in order to be invited to this wedding we need to part of the bride.



And the bride is made up of those who have accepted Jesus as savior.

As the bride we have a purpose – just as a bride in a marriage has a purpose.

The purpose of the church is quite simple and recorded in

1 Corinthians 10:31

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God”.

And as we read further in Acts 2 we see the purpose of the church.

READ Verse 42 – 47

Remember that we are His wife and we have a purpose but what is our objective?

Our first objective is WORSHIP.

“... they were continually devoting themselves,”

The Greek here suggests a steadfast, single-minded commitment.

So when the church met to glorify God they were completely devoted and they blended this with passionate commitment.

As Charles Swindoll says – *“Their worship was no half-hearted effort learned by routine. They participated. They got with it.”*

When they worshipped there was a literal fear of God. The fear referred to here is respect for who God is.

Their worship was focused on God and what He did for them.



They did not replace this with programs and teachings on how to worship but rather committed themselves to lift up God because our purpose is the GLORIFY Him in whatever we do.

Our second objective is INSTRUCTION.

They devoted themselves to the Apostles teaching.

The leaders of the day were teaching from what they heard and saw.

Today we have the WORD OF GOD to guide us.

And we have to commit to listening to those who are ready to share the truth with us.

WHY?

- ✚ It gives stability to our faith
- ✚ It stabilizes us in times of testing
- ✚ It enables us to handle the Bible correctly
- ✚ It equips us to detect and confront error
- ✚ It makes us confident in our walk
- ✚ It calms our fears and cancels our superstitions.

But take note that we have to have a balance between the word, prayer, fasting and giving.

Our third objective is FELLOWSHIP.

The church was never meant to be a building where you come and sit and worship and receive instruction only.

The church is a community of ecclesia (called out ones) who demonstrate genuine concern for each other.

The early church met daily in each other's homes to remember what Jesus did for them.



Charles Swindoll had this to say about fellowship – *“expressions of genuine Christianity freely shared among God’s family members is true fellowship.”*

We are to encourage and build up one another in love.

The world around you is not going to do it.

So we who are called by His name are called to do this for each other.

Our fourth objective is EXPRESSION.

This may sound strange but the church is a body that must not keep its hands to itself.

If we read Acts 2:43-46 we see how they expressed themselves by selling all that they had and sharing with one another.

What can you give today?

I am not asking for money or your possessions but that you encourage me, that you love me and that you care for me and pray for me.

Look at the example of Peter and John

Acts 3:1-7

¹ One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet



and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, **walking and jumping, and praising God.** ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

So they gave what they had and the result was walking and jumping and praising God.

Conclusion

So our purpose is to glorify God in all that we do and our objective is to be His bride prepared for His coming, His W.I.F.E.

John Stam and Elisabeth Alden Scott Stam, aka, "**Betty**" were American Christian missionaries to China, with the China Inland Mission, during the Chinese Civil War.

The Stams were forced to march 12 miles with the soldiers, to the town of Miaosheo. The group stopped for a night, and Betty was allowed to tend to Helen their baby daughter; but in fact, Betty instead hid her daughter in the room inside a sleeping bag. The very next morning, John and Betty were being marched down the streets of Miaosheo to meet their deaths. Curious onlookers lined both sides of the streets. A Chinese shopkeeper stepped out of the crowd and talked to the Communists, trying to persuade them not to kill the Stams. The soldiers ordered the man back into the crowd, but he wouldn't step back. The soldiers then invaded his house where they found a Chinese copy of the *Holy Bible* and a hymn book. He was then led alongside the Stams to be killed as well, for being a Christian. After marching for a short while longer, John was ordered to kneel, and he was beheaded. Betty and the shopkeeper were killed moments later.

The baby, Helen, was found two days later by a Chinese pastor who took her home and took care of her. Reverend Lo Ke-chou and his wife then took the baby girl to her maternal grandparents,



Reverend Charles Ernest Scott and his wife, Clara, who were also missionaries in China. The Stams' daughter later came to the United States and was raised by her aunt and uncle, George and Helen Mahy. As for Helen's parents, a small group of Christians found their bodies and buried them on a hillside.

The Stams' gravestones read:

John Cornelius Stam, January 18, 1907 to December 8, 1934

"That Christ may be glorified whether by life or by death."

Philippians 1:20

Elisabeth Scott Stam, February 22, 1906 to December 8, 1934

"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:21

Are you ready to Glorify God?

When waters rush and thunder rolls

And sin seeks its domain

I gently ask for Jesus

For there is no other name.

Amen