

What COVID-19, Black Lives Matter, and 'Woke' America is Revealing About the Church

The Church – What Did Jesus Send Us Into the World to Do?

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:19-20

"The mission of the church is to go into the world and make disciples by declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit and gathering these disciples into churches, that they might worship and obey Jesus Christ now and in eternity to the glory of God the Father."

- Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert, *What is the Mission of the Church? Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission*

"The primary work of the institutional church is not to promote social justice, it is to warn people of divine justice. Its primary business is not to call society to be more righteous but to tell persons of the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ. Its primary work is not to tell us who to elect to public office, it is to tell those in every nation of the One who elected many for eternal life. The primary work of the institutional church is to open and close the kingdom of God and to nurture the Christian faith. This it does primarily through the pure preaching of the gospel, the pure administration of the sacraments, and the exercise of church discipline."

- Calvin Van Reken, "The Church's Role in Social Justice"

The Church

WE AFFIRM that the primary role of the church is to worship God through the preaching of his word, teaching sound doctrine, observing baptism and the Lord's Supper, refuting those who contradict, equipping the saints, and evangelizing the lost. We affirm that when the primacy of the gospel is maintained that this often has a positive effect on the culture in which various societal ills are mollified. We affirm that, under the lordship of Christ, we are to obey the governing authorities established by God and pray for civil leaders.

WE DENY that political or social activism should be viewed as integral components of the gospel or primary to the mission of the church. Though believers can and should utilize all lawful means that God has providentially established to have some effect on the laws of a society, we deny that these activities are either evidence of saving faith or constitute a central part of the church's mission given to her by Jesus Christ, her head. We deny that laws or regulations possess any inherent power to change sinful hearts.

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 28:16-20; ROMANS 13:1-7; 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-3; 2 TIMOTHY 4:2; TITUS 1:9; 1 PETER 2:13-17

- From **The Statement on Social Justice & the Gospel**

**The Church has a unique and specific, _____
that is not subject to change.**

The church must guard itself diligently from all *distractions* and *diversions* as it fulfills its calling in the world.

We teach that the purpose of the church is to glorify God (Ephesians 3:21) by building itself up in the faith (Ephesians 4:13-16), by instruction of the Word (2 Timothy 2:2, 15; 3:16-17), by fellowship (Acts 2:47; 1 John 1:3), by keeping the ordinances (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38-42) and by advancing and communicating the gospel to the entire world (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8; 2:42).

²¹ *to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

- Ephesians 3:21

¹¹ *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.*

¹⁵ *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

- Ephesians 4:11-16

² *and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*

¹⁵ *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

¹⁶ *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

⁴ *I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*

- 2 Timothy 2:2, 15, 16-4:2

⁴² *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. - Acts 2:42*

⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." - Acts 1:8*

What is "mission"?

Presupposes a _____ ...

A person or persons _____ ...

And an _____ ...

What about Good Works?

We do good works because we _____. (1 John 5:3)

We do good works because we _____.
(Matt. 22:36-40)

We do good works to _____ - His character and nature.
(Matt. 5:16)

We do good works because they are the outgrowth of the
_____ in us. (Matthew 7:16-20)

We do good works because they grant an _____.

5 CONCLUSIONS:

Remember that the _____ purpose of the church is the diligent _____ of, clear _____ of, and consistent _____ of the Gospel.

Differentiate between " _____ " and " _____ " when it comes to 'mission' ...

Recognize that _____ a church does is its 'mission', though we do these things because we are Christians ...

The _____ of the church is not as varied as all of the _____ to the church ...

5 WARNINGS:

Don't _____ the Gospel's application to all of life ...

Don't _____ the effect of the Gospel to eternity only ...

Don't _____ the Gospel to mean something different than Scripture reveals ...

Don't _____ "justice" by society or culture, but by God and the Gospel ...

Don't _____ precious time and resources away from the Great Commission ...

In the end, the Great Commission of the Church must be the mission of the church for two very basic reasons:

In the words of Kevin DeYoung, "There is something worse than death and something better than human flourishing."

There is something worse than death ...

There is something better than human flourishing ...

15 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

⁶ Then he appeared ...