

OUR PURPOSE

LESSON 1

I. The purpose of the local church is to bring glory to God.

A. Since God is the source, the sustainer, and the end of all things, He is the One who deserves all the glory!

Rom 11:36

“For of him (source), and through him (means), and to him (end), are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen.”

1 Cor 10:31

“Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

B. “Glory” means to exalt, to give the right opinion, judgment, or view of someone.

C. The purpose of the local church is to exalt the Lord by giving the right opinion of God in all things to all people.

D. Question: How does a church bring glory to God?

E. **Our Mission Statement:**

“The purpose of Community Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by worshipping the Lord in righteousness and holiness, by evangelizing the lost at home and abroad, by edifying and equipping the saints through Bible-centered preaching and teaching, and by dwelling together in warm, Christian fellowship.”

II. The local church brings glory to God by:

A. Worshipping the Lord in righteousness and holiness

Definition: Simply put public worship is the reverent expression of our love and adoration for God.

“The worship of the living and true God is essentially an engagement with Him on the terms that He proposes and in the way that he alone makes possible.” (David Peterson, Engaging with God, p. 20)

Scripture:

Matthew 22:37

“Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

1. How do we worship?

a. With a clean, pure heart

Worshipping God is daily living your life with a heart that is totally surrendered, totally obedient, and totally devoted to pleasing, praising, and glorifying God and God alone.

b. First privately and then publicly

“It really is possible to organize one’s whole life around the worship of God, understanding and articulating everything in terms of worship. Authentic worship is a place of purity, a place of praise, and a place of passion in the very presence of God. This is not a particular physical place but a place where the human spirit can soar with the God of heaven, who is by nature spirit and, therefore, must be worshiped in spirit and in truth.” (Richard E. Averbeck, Authentic Worship, p. 133)

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*“Redemption is the means; worship is the goal. In one sense, worship is the whole point of everything. It is the purpose of history, the goal of the whole Christian story. Worship is not one segment of the Christian life among others. Worship is the entire Christian life, seen as a priestly offering to God. And when we meet together as a church, our time of worship is not merely a preliminary to something else; rather, it is the whole point of our existence as the body of Christ.” (John M. Frame, *Worship in Spirit and Truth*, p. 11)*

- c. With the entire person – intellect, emotion, and will
*“Worship is the believers’ response of all that they are – mind, emotions, will, and body – to what God is and says and does. This response has its mystical side in subjective experience and its practical side in objective obedience to God’s revealed will. Worship is a loving response that’s balanced by the fear of the Lord, and it is a deepening response as the believer comes to know God better.” (Warren Wiersbe, *Real Worship*, p. 26)*
 - d. Through God-exalted singing
 - Music in which the words are doctrinally sound and exalt the attributes, character, and plan of God for His creation
 - Music which draws attention to the message and not the music
 - Music which draws attention to the message and not the messenger (not a performance)
 - Music that engages the entire inner man including the mind, emotions, and will (Jn. 4:24)
 - Music that is uplifting, enthusiastic, full of variety and that speaks to the heart (not liturgical or formal)
 - e. Through Christ centered preaching
 - The preaching of the Word is the main focus of the worship service (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
 - The music ministry should prepare the congregation to receive God’s Word
 - Since Christ is the head of the church, the preaching should always be Christ-centered and not man-centered (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 1:22; 5:23)
 - f. Through sacrificial giving
 - The giving of our tithes and offerings is an act of worship
 - God loves a cheerful giver!
 - g. Through dependent praying
 - Prayer is an act of worship (Acts 2:42)
 - Prayer is an expression of our dependence upon God.
2. We do not come to church as spectators. God is the audience and we encourage everyone to participate and be fragrance acceptable to God.

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B. Evangelizing the lost at home and abroad

Definition: Bringing people to Christ by sharing the gospel.

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20

1. What is the Gospel that we share?
 - a. Problem of sin (Rom. 3:23)
 - b. Penalty of sin (Rom. 6:23)
 - c. Payment of sin (Rom. 5:8)
 - d. Personal decision of faith/Repentance (Rom. 10:13)
2. How do we know we are saved?
 - a. Because of what Jesus said (Jn. 3:36; 5:24; I Jn. 5:13)
 - b. Because of what Jesus did (I Pet. 2:24)
3. How long are we saved?
 - a. We are saved forever (Jn. 6:47; 10:28-30)
 - b. You cannot have eternal life for only a little while!
4. How do we share this gospel?
 - a. Through our personal witness and trusting God for “divine appointment”
 - b. Through our weekly soul winning program – Evangelism Training Program (Netcasters)
 - c. Through special outreach events
 - d. Through our worship services
 - e. Through our missions program

C. Edifying and equipping the saints through Bible-centered preaching and teaching (Discipleship)

Definition: Discipleship is the process by which we grow into Christ likeness

Scripture: Matthew 28:20; 2 Peter 3:18

1. What is involved in discipleship?
 - a. It involves putting off our old man (flesh), and putting on the new man (thinking and acting like Christ). Eph. 4:22-24
 - b. It involves surrender, separation, and sanctification. Rom. 12:1-2
2. How do we practice discipleship?
 - a. Through our Discipleship lessons for new converts (BASICS)
 - b. Through preaching in the services
 - c. Through teaching in our Kids4Truth and Youth4Truth
 - d. Through special programs, seminars, retreats, and events

D. Dwelling together in warm, Christian fellowship

Definition: The mutual relationship of care, support, and encouragement we have as a result of our common belief in Christ and membership in this church.

Scripture: Acts 2:42

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1. How do we fellowship?
 - a. Through small group Bible studies (key to assimilation into the church)
 - b. Through various men's and ladies' activities
 - c. Through participation, one on one friendships, spending time together
 - d. Through church wide activities (church picnic, etc.)
2. How do we minister together?
 - a. Through our care groups
 - b. Through evangelistic outreach
 - c. Through serving in Kids4Truth, Youth4Truth, music ministry, nursery, children's church, ushering, greeter, ladies Bible study, men's Bible study, etc.
 - d. Through our Pastor (sickness, bereavement, counseling)
3. Remember, every member a minister and every saint a servant!

Conclusion:

Five Ministry Goals of the Local Church

1. Evangelism
2. Church planting
Assimilating the new convert into the local body of believers
3. Disciple making
Through one on one discipleship, Bible Study, preaching, teaching, etc.
4. Christ-like character
5. Involvement in ministry