



We are the Church
Mar 4: The Church on Mission

Series Summary: It is commonly said that students (teenagers) are the future of the church. This is wrong. Students are the current church. They are a part of the body of Christ (the Ekklesia). In this series, we are going to discuss what it means to be a part of the local church.

Big Idea/Question: In order for us to clearly know what a healthy church is, or what kind of church we would want to be a part of, we have to ask the question: what is the purpose of the Church?

GET THEM TALKING

12th - Get Them Talking: How many people plan on leaving Victoria or Port Lavaca one day? When you do leave, you will have to choose where to go to church. That decision should not be rushed into. We should think through that decision.

So what are some things that you are looking for in a church that you would attend one day? (Those who are staying in town feel free to answer as well)

10-11th - Get Them Talking: What is a sign of a good or a healthy church?

What is the purpose of the Church? What should the Church remain focused on?

VIDEO TEACHING

OUR PURPOSE

In order for us to clearly state what a healthy church is, or what kind of church we would want to attend when we move, then we have to ask the question: 'what is the purpose of the Church?'

The Church is the body of Christ sent out on a mission to reach the lost and glorify God.

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Who are we? God's chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. This means we are set apart (holy). We are not supposed to look and act like the world.

What is our purpose? To declare the praise of Jesus who gave us so much.

Transition - Here is how Jesus put it just before he left to be with the Father.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

How do we make disciples? Relationships - The mission of Parkway Church is "Building Relationships that Build Disciples."

Transition - If it is the purpose of the Church to make disciples then it is your purpose to make disciples. Nobody gets a pass on that. The good news is that we do not have to do this alone. Instead, we each have our part to play in fulfilling the purpose of the Church.

GROUP DISCUSSION

(The Body)

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 as a small group

What is Paul saying in this passage? What did he mean when he compared the Church to a body?

Leader Note: the human body has many body parts. Each with a specific purpose. Likewise, there is diversity within the Church body. People from different backgrounds, vocations, ethnicities, and incomes. But all are unified by their belief in Jesus Christ. All were indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Because of this we are unified. Not because we are the same. But because we have the greatest thing in common, our savior.

Why is it so important that we understand or remember that we are unified as the Church?

What could get in the way of the unity of the Church?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:15-20 as a small group

What is Paul getting at this passage? What is he saying?

Leader Note: Each believer in Jesus has a unique and important part to play in the church. This is largely based on our spiritual gifting. There is no such thing as an unimportant body part. Likewise, there are no such things as an unimportant part of the church with spiritual gifts that do not matter.

What happens when one of us refuses to play our part in fulfilling the purpose of the Church to glorify God and make disciples?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-22 as a small group

What excuses are tempting to use for not taking part in serving in and through the church?