

Why Do We Exist as a Local Church? (The Purpose of Family Baptist Church)

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 4:1-16

INTRODUCTION

- ◆ A few decades ago, it was popular for local churches to compose a “**mission statement**” that was used as a reference guide – a touchstone to remind themselves what their purpose should be and how they should constantly adjust to that purpose.

INTRODUCTION

Today, we conduct our annual business meeting. It is therefore an appropriate time to remind ourselves of the purpose that the Lord has led us together to achieve.



Therefore, we want to remind ourselves of the 5 basic Biblical purposes for our existence.

To Provide a Feeding Station for the “Believing Sheep”

(Jn 10:1-16, 21:15-17)

- ◆ Feed lambs – I Pet 2:1
- ◆ Shepherd sheep – teach, exhort, warn, correct
- ◆ Feed sheep – Heb 5:14

To Accurately Exposit the Word of God

To accurately understand the gospel for initial salvation (I Cor 15:1-4)

- ◇ Not “follow Jesus”, “accept Jesus”, or even “believe in Jesus”
- ◇ To accurately understand distinctions in God’s Word:
 - ◇ Law vs grace,
 - ◇ Faith vs works,
 - ◇ The Church vs Israel,
 - ◇ Initial vs present-tense salvation
- ◇ To understand God’s program in history-past, for the future, and especially for the Church today

To Equip Believers for a Work of Ministry

◆ Eph 2:10

◆ Eph 4:11-13

To Exercise Spiritual and Physical Care for True Members of the Body of Christ

◇ **By example, encouragement, prayer, material giving for necessities, NOT a 'social' gospel**

◇ **Jn 13:24**

◇ **I Jn 3:17**

◇ **Eph 3:17**


◇ **Gal 6:10**

To Be Used by God for True Evangelism (1 Peter 3:15)

- ◇ Maintain spirituality in order to be ready
- ◇ Demonstrate a life of salvation, hope
- ◇ Be desirous to be asked about the hope in your life
- ◇ Not to win the world to Christ, but those out of the world - Acts 15:14
- ◇ Assisting other believer's ministries of TRUE evangelism, prayerfully and monetarily - Phil 4:15-17
 - ◇ "...sanctify (set apart as) the Lord God in your hearts..."

CONCLUSION

Our local church exists for being a **FEEDING STATION** that accurately exposit, preaches, and teaches God's written word for equipping believers for individual works of service to others, for God's glory.



Let us be continually adjusted to God's purposes by His Word