

## What In the World Should the Church be Doing?



## The Governing Principles

- The duties of the church are equally shared by every member of the church.
- The duties of the church can be reduced to one key concept: serving.

## The Overarching Plan

- Christ Appoints the Leaders.
- Leaders Equip the Members.
- Members Accomplish the Service.
- The Outcome Will Be Growth
  - “to the building up of the body of Christ”

## The Church's Specific Duties



## The Church's Mission

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| • A vertical mission    | • God               |
| • An internal mission   | • The church Itself |
| • A horizontal mission. | • The world.        |

## To God



## To God

- **Worship**
  - Reading the Bible
  - Praying the Bible
  - Singing the Bible
  - Preaching the Bible
  - Giving
  - The Ordinances
    - Baptism
    - The Lord's Table



## To God

- **Worship**
- **Serve as the Pillar and Ground of the Truth**
  - 1 Tim. 3:15
    - 1. Proclaim it
      - 2 Tim. 4:1-5
    - 2. Guard it
      - 1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Tim. 1:13-14
      - How do we guard the truth?
        - a) By establishing the standard against which error can be judged.
        - b) By identifying error
        - c) By confronting wrong teaching & errant teachers (Titus 1:9)
  - 3. Pass it on to the next generation (2 Tim. 2:2)
- d) By practicing church discipline.
  - Against false teachers (Titus 1:10-16)
  - Against believers who persist in spreading doctrinal error (Gal. 2:11-14)
  - Against believers who are divisive about their own doctrinal positions in contradiction of the church's doctrinal statement (Titus 3:10-11)

## To the Church Itself



## To the Church Itself

- **Govern its affairs**
  - 1 Cor. 14:33 – God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.
  - 1 Cor. 14:40—all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.
- **Equip the saints for the work of service**
  - Elders (Eph. 4:11-12)
    - Ministry of the Word: both verbal instruction and example.
    - Prayer
  - Each member – by using his or her spiritual gift (Eph. 4:12-16)

## To the Church Itself

- **Practice church discipline**
  - Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:1ff; Gal. 6:1; 2 Th. 3:6; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; Tit. 3:8-11; James 5:19-20
  - **What are the purposes of discipline?**
    - Gal. 6:1 – to restore the sinning Christian to the path of blessing and obedience.
    - Matt. 18:20 – to call the person to serious self-examination.
    - 1 Cor. 5:6-8; Gal. 6:1; 1 Tim. 5:20 – to protect other Christians from sin and to motivate them to pursue holiness.
  - **What is the ultimate divine purpose of discipline?**
    - Eph. 5:26-27 – to sanctify the church and present it as a bride without spot or wrinkle to Christ.

## To the Church Itself

- **Encourage mutual edification**
  - The Elders
    - Acts 20:2 – When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece.
    - in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.
    - Heb. 13:7 – Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.
  - Every Christian
    - Rom. 15:14 – concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.
    - Col. 3:16 – Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
    - 1 Th. 5:11 – Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.
    - Heb. 10:24-25 – let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

## To the Church Itself

- **Practice mutual care**
  - Gal. 6:10 – while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

## Groups of Needy

- **Widows**
  - 1 Tim. 5:3-16
  - Jam. 1:27 – Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress.
- **Orphans**
  - Jam. 1:27
- **Sick**
  - Ministry of Jesus
    - Matt. 14:14 – When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.
  - Ministry of the apostles
    - Act. 5:16 – Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.
  - Matt. 25:36, 39-40
- **Strangers**
  - Matt. 25:35 – I was a stranger, and you invited Me in.
  - Rom. 12:13 – [Be] practicing hospitality.
  - Heb. 13:2 – Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.
  - 1 Pet. 4:9 – Be hospitable to one another without complaint.
  - 3 John – hospitality to faithful ministers

## Groups of Needy

- **Prisoners (for their faith)**
  - Matt. 25:36, 39-40
  - Phil. 4:14 – you have done well to share *with me* in my affliction.
  - Heb. 10:34 – you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.
  - Heb. 13:3 – Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, *and those* who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.
- **Poor**
  - Acts 11:27-30
  - Rom. 12:13 – [Be] contributing to the needs of the saints
  - 1 Cor. 16:1-2
  - 2 Cor. 9:7-9
  - Gal. 2:10 – *They only asked* us to remember the poor: the very thing I also was eager to do.
  - Jam. 2:15-16 – If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?
  - 1 John 3:17 – whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

## To the Church Itself

- Govern its affairs
- Equip the saints for service
- Practice church discipline
- Encourage mutual edification
- Practice mutual care

## To the World



- **Evangelism**
  - Matt. 28:19 – "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
  - Acts 1:8 – you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
  - Acts 8:4 – Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.
  - 2 Cor. 5:14-15, 17-21
  - 1 Pet. 2:9 – you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

## To the World

- Benevolence & Mercy
  - The poor occupy a special place in the heart of God (Deut. 15:11; 24:14-15; Ps. 35:10; 113:7; 132:15; 141:12; Pr. 17:5; 19:17).
  - They should occupy a place in the heart of the righteous as well.
    - Pr. 29:7 – The righteous is concerned for the rights of the poor, The wicked does not understand *such* concern.
    - Pr. 31:20 – She extends her hand to the poor, And she stretches out her hands to the needy.

## The Priority of Benevolence

- One of the sins of Israel for which she was judged is a failure to care for the poor of the land.
  - Ezek. 16:49 – "Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy.
- It was this same sin that brought God's judgment on Nebuchadnezzar.
  - Dan. 4:27 – "Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your sins by *doing* righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to *the* poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity."

## The Priority of Benevolence

- The ministry of our Lord.
  - Matt. 6:2 – "when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.
  - Matt. 19:21 – Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."
  - Mark 14:7 – "you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them; but you do not always have Me.

## The Priority of Benevolence

- The Ministry of our Lord
  - Luke 4:40 – While the sun was setting, all those who had any *who* were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them.
  - Luke 6:35-36 – love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. 36 "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
  - Luke 10:25-37 Good Samaritan
  - Luke 14:12-14 – He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and *that* will be your repayment. 13 "But when you give a reception, invite *the* poor, *the* crippled, *the* lame, *the* blind, 14 and you will be blessed, since they do not have *the means* to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."
  - Luke 19:8 – Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor."

## The Priority of Benevolence

- The example of Paul
  - Acts 20:35 – "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
- The directives of Paul
  - Eph. 4:28 – He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.

## The Church's Duties

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  - Serve as Pillar & Ground of the Truth
- To the Church Itself
  - Govern its affairs
  - Equip the saints for service
  - Practice church discipline
  - Encourage mutual edification
  - Practice mutual care
- To the World
  - Evangelism
  - Benevolence & Mercy

