

Are We The Church?

The Church on Mission
Acts 2:42-47 – July 26, 2026

Our Sermon Series

Are We the Church		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
July 5	Devoted	Acts 2:42-47
July 12	Why Do We Teach?	Acts 2:42-47
July 19	Fellowship	Acts 2:42-47
July 26	The Church on Mission	Acts 2:42-47

The Purity of the Church

- True churches can be more pure or less **pure**, yet still be a church.
- *"The purity of the church is its degree of freedom from wrong doctrine and conduct, and its degree of conformity to God's revealed will for the church."* Wayne Grudem



- Some of the factors which determine the purity of the church include ...
 - Biblical Doctrine
 - Use of Ordinances (or Sacraments)
 - Use of Church Discipline
 - Genuine Worship
 - Effective Prayer
 - Effective Witness
 - Effective Fellowship
 - Biblical Church Government
 - Spiritual Power in Ministry
 - Personal Holiness of the Members
 - Care for the Poor
 - Love for Christ
- There is a point where a church's purity reaches a level where it can no longer be considered a true church.

Purity Impacts the Three Functions of the Church

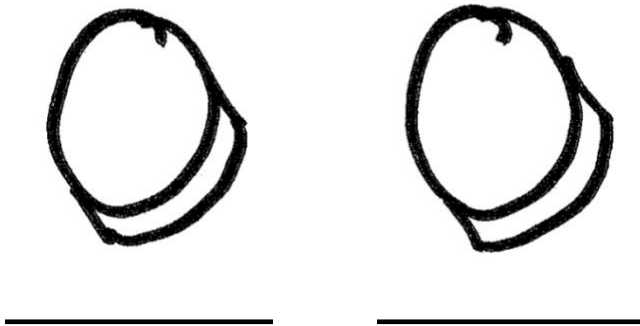
1) Ministry to **GOD**

- Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, signing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
- Westminster Catechism: "Man's chief end is to glory God, and to enjoy Him forever."
 - Pastor John Piper's edit: "Man's chief end is to glory God by enjoying Him forever."
 - "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." (also from Pastor Piper)
- If the church had an engine ... it'd be called worship.
- Personal Application:
 - I will begin a life of worship today by naming Jesus as my Lord and Savior (And I will soon be baptized.)
 - I will read and meditate on Scripture every day to get a clearer understanding of who God is and how to live a life of worship.
 - I will often pray to express gratitude and praise, to confess sin and receive forgiveness, to bring needs, to
 - I will explore the practice of Sabbath



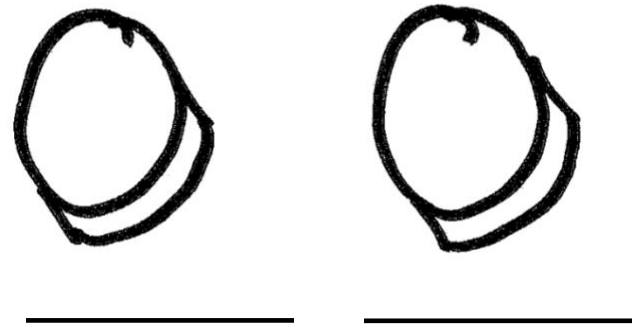
2) Ministry to **ONE ANOTHER**

- Colossians 1:28 “Him we proclaim, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”
- Ephesians 4:11-16 “And he gave the apostle, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry ... ”
- 1 Corinthians 14:12 “So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.”
- Consider the story of an amazing wedding.
- Personal Application:
 - I will take a step toward regular/rhythmic fellowship with other Christians in the form of a smaller group
 - I will commit to be led by the leadership of a local church through membership
 - I will follow through with baptism
 - I will lovingly speak truth to my Christian community
 - I will find and grow in my spiritual gifts



3) Ministry to **THE WORLD**

- The world = anyone not in your congregation.
- Involves both WORD and DEED.
- Galatians 2:10 (When discussing with church leaders their plan to take the Gospel to Gentiles) “All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.”
- James 1:27 “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit with orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 “... begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints ...”
- 1 John 3:17 “But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?”
- Personal Application:
 - I will start talking about Jesus with those outside the church
 - I will go to people who don’t know Jesus
 - I will give generously to the church and to other efforts God directs me toward
 - I will love my neighbor in word and deed



Many notes taken from two books by Wayne Grudem:
“Systematic Theology” and “Christian Beliefs.”