

WHY THE CHURCH IS SO SPECIAL

Selected Scriptures

God created the church to be His base of operations in the world

LET'S GET STARTED

They say absence makes the heart grow fonder, and the recent two-month shutdown of our church has helped each of us appreciate God's church more than ever. That makes this a prime time for us to refresh our awareness of what the Bible says about the church—its purpose, its mission, and our role in it. In this opening message in the series, we begin by looking at what makes the church so special, to God and to us.

LET'S HEAR THE WORD

Here is a survey of what the New Testament says God created the Church to be and do:

- **The church is God's _____—focused upon worship and praise.**

Ephesians 1:6— . . . to the praise of his glorious grace, . . .

Ephesians 1:12— . . . for the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:14— . . . to the praise of his glory.

- **The church is God's _____—bound by togetherness and encouragement.**

Acts 2:44—All the believers were together . . .

Hebrews 10:25—Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Christian *koinōnia* may be defined as “expressions of genuine Christianity, freely shared among the members of God's family.” —Charles Swindoll

Quotable

The church is special because she is God's chosen vehicle by which He moves through the world inviting people . . . to repent of their sin and idolatry and to surrender to and confess Christ as their Lord, God, King, and Savior—thereby becoming part of His people, the church.

—Josh Laxton

If you would like to know more

The Master's Plan for the Church, by John MacArthur, Moody Publishers, 1991.

WHY THE CHURCH IS SO SPECIAL (selected Scripture)

Romans 12:10—Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

- **The church is Christ's _____—commissioned to make disciples.**

Matthew 28:18-20—¹⁸ 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.”

LET'S LIVE IT

Here are some ways you can orient your everyday life around the church's three purposes:

Because the church is for worship, I will fall in love with God so deeply that my praise of Him becomes a _____ part of all I do.

1 Corinthians 10:31— . . . whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Because the church is for togetherness, I will _____ myself in its gatherings, and in the lives of my fellow believers.

Acts 2:42—They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Because the church is for discipleship, I will strive to constantly _____ as a believer, and to help others do the same.

Colossians 3:16—Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.