

NOTES

~ *Role of the Church* ~

There's *the Church*, which is the entire assembly of Jesus' followers, and there are *churches* (lower case), which can represent local collections of Christian believers or followers.

The Church as a whole is responsible for filling these roles and responsibilities in our covenant with the Christ:

- **Evangelism:** How will people hear the good news of salvation if we don't tell them?? (**Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 1:16 and 10:14-15; 2Corinthians 5:18-20**)
- **Benevolence:** The collecting of funds and other resources in the first-century Church was for the care of others to include those who traveled to spread the Gospel message.
 - Care for brothers & sisters in Christ (**Matthew 25:41-43; James 2:13-17; Acts 4:32-35; Acts 6:1-5**)
 - Care for traveling evangelists (**3John 1:7-8; Philippians 4:14-19**)
- **Worship:** Although we worship God and our Christ through our speech and actions, we can also do this in song and dance. (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**)
- **Governance:** No one should be more important than another or 'lord it over' others, but fill roles as the Holy Spirit enables them.
 - Elders – overseers within the churches (**Acts 14:23; 1Timothy 5:17**)
 - Deacons – servants in the churches (**1Timothy 3:8-13**)
 - Bishops – overseers among the churches (**1Timothy 3:1-7**)
- **Discipleship:** This is a very necessary step after evangelizing the Gospel message! We must share spiritual gifts, teach, mentor, and disciple to help others increase in their faith and stand firm against all kinds of wickedness and false teaching (**Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:17 and 10:17; Colossians 1:28 and 3:16; 2Timothy 3:16; Titus 1:9 and 2:3; Hebrews 5:12-14**)

Summary: The Church at large is composed of true followers of Jesus who are obedient out of their faith by honoring God and treating their fellow humankind appropriately. This includes caring for them. Additionally, Jesus commanded us to spread the good news of salvation and make disciples. Everything we do as the corporate Church should work together for these purposes.

~ *Role of the Church* ~

NOTES

Why the Church?
Churches?

What is the 'Church'? Why does it exist?

Differences?

There's *the Church*, which is the entire assembly of Jesus' followers, and there are *churches* (lower case), which can represent local collections of Christian believers or followers.

Church fills roles as
the Spirit allows

The Church as a whole is responsible for filling these roles and responsibilities in our covenant with the Christ:

Evangelism

- **Evangelism:** How will people hear the good news of salvation if we don't tell them?? **[Matthew 28:19-20]**

[Romans 10:14-15]

Forms of evangelism

This can take many forms from telling your neighbors about how God has rescued you through Jesus from His judgment to come to giving words of encouragement or answering questions about life with God's responses from Scripture. **[Give examples of witnessing]**

We learn how to do this through examples set by others more spiritually mature and what we learn through discipleship and study of Scripture.

Benevolence

- **Benevolence:** The collecting of funds and other resources in the first-century Church was for the care of others to include those who traveled to spread the Gospel message.

Who will if we don't?

If we don't take care of our brothers and sister of the faith, then who should? And if we don't fund those 'missionaries' who spend all their time spreading the Gospel message abroad, then how will they survive and tell others in foreign lands the good news?

We'll be judged

Jesus told us that we'll be judged for our obedience to care for others out of our faith. Let's take a look at some of the Scripture references related to caring for those of our faith and for those who evangelize the Gospel.

Care for each other

- Care for brothers & sisters in Christ

[Matthew 25:41-43]

[James 2:13-17]

[Acts 4:32-35]

Care for evangelists

- Care for traveling evangelists

[3John 1:7-8]

Assign worth to God and Christ through ‘worship’

- **Worship:** Although we worship God and our Christ through our speech and actions, we can also do this in song and dance. Keep in mind, though, that true worship and praise is anything we do to ‘assign worth’ to our creator and our savior. So, while music generally makes us feel good, we need to remember that it’s really meant to provide a vehicle for our outward-bound praise and worship.

[Give examples of outward-bound worship]

[Colossians 3:16]

Should be outward-bound

Governance

Examples of gifts and abilities we can use to **lead** or **equip**

- **Governance:** No one should be more important than another or ‘lord it over’ others, but fill roles as the Holy Spirit enables them. That Spirit gives many potential gifts to mature and equip the body of Jesus for ministry. **[Give examples of gifts and how they’re used]**

Let’s take a look at the early formal leadership roles within the churches)

Elders – leaders inside church

- Elders – overseers within the churches. These can also be pastors.

[Acts 14:23]

Deacons - helpers

- Deacons – servants in the churches. **[1Timothy 3:8-13]**

Bishops – leaders among the churches

Discipleship & why it's necessary

Teach, prepare, pray for, and teach how to study

Invoke God's **blessings** and wisdom including **healing & revelation**

Summary

- Bishops – overseers among the churches. This overarching leadership figure can help to pull the churches together into a unified body. **[1Timothy 3:1-7]**

- **Discipleship:** This is a very necessary step after evangelizing the Gospel message! We must share spiritual gifts, teach, mentor, and disciple to help others increase in their faith and stand firm against all kinds of wickedness and false teaching.

Let's take a quick look at some references to discipleship and its benefits.

[Colossians 1:28 and 3:16]

[2Timothy 3:16]

[Titus 1:9]

[Hebrews 5:12-14]

This is where we can use our spiritual gifts and maturing to help build the faith of others and equip them for ministry. Here are but a few of the things we can do in discipleship.

- Teach people the Gospel to help them defend their faith and become even more confident.
- Prepare for evangelism.
- Pray and teach to pray.
- Teach how to study the Scripture.
- Invoke God's blessings to include healing and revelation.

Summary: The Church at large is composed of true followers of Jesus who are obedient out of their faith by honoring God and treating their fellow humankind appropriately. This includes caring for them. Additionally, Jesus commanded us to spread the good news of salvation and make disciples. Everything we do as the corporate Church should work together for these purposes.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. —Matthew 28:19-20.

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!” —Romans 10:14-15.

Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.’ —Matthew 25:41-43.

For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 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? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. —James 2:13-17.

And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need. —Acts 4:32-35.

For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth. —3John 1:7-8.

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. —Colossians 3:16.

When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. —Acts 14:23.

Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. —1Timothy 3:8-13.

It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. —1Timothy 3:1-3.

We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. —Colossians 1:28.

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. —Colossians 3:16.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness —2Timothy 3:16.

holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. —Titus 1:9.

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. —Hebrews 5:12-14.