

## 7. The Church is Eternal in Purpose

**Ephesians 3:10–11 (NKJV)** “To the intent that now the **manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church** to the **principalities and powers in the heavenly places**, according to the **eternal purpose** which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Revelation 21:2–3 (NKJV)** “Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men**, and **He will dwell with them**, and **they shall be His people**. God Himself will be with them and be their God.’”

**Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT)** He has **planted eternity** in the human heart...

**Ecclesiastes 3:11 (AMP)** He also has **planted eternity in men’s hearts and minds** [a divinely implanted **sense of a purpose** working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy]

### Practical Application

Live with eternity in mind. Invest in things that last—faith, people, the Gospel. Ask yourself, “Will this matter 100 years from now?” Let that guide your choices.



## MY CHURCH, Part 1: God's Design for the Church

Sunday, September 7, 2025

### 1. The Church Belongs to Christ

**Matthew 16:16 (NKJV)** Simon Peter answered and said, “**You are the Christ, the Son** of the living God.”

**Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)** “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build My church**, and **the gates of Hades shall not prevail** against it.”

**Colossians 1:18 (NKJV)** “And **He is the head of the body, the church**, who is the beginning, **the firstborn** from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

**1 Corinthians 6:20** “For **you were bought at a price**; therefore **glorify God** in your **body** and in your **spirit, which are God’s**.”

**We honor Christ by how we live our lives in service to Him**

### 2. The Church is Built on the Word

**Without the Word, the Church has no direction, power, or identity.**

**John 1:1,14 (NKJV)** “**In the beginning was the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”

**Acts 2:42 (NKJV)** “And they continued steadfastly in the **apostles’ doctrine** and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

**The Word reveals God’s nature, Christ’s redemptive work, the purpose of the Church, and how believers are to live, worship, and serve.**

**2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)** “**All Scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and **is profitable** for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness, that the **man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped** for every good work.”

**Matthew 7:24 (NKJV)** “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

## A Word-based Church/Life will always stand in victory.

### Practical Application

Spend time daily in God’s Word. Don’t just read it—live it. When decisions arise, ask, “What does the Bible say?” Be a Word-based believer, not an opinion-based one.

## 3. The Church is God’s Family

**Ephesians 2:19 (NKJV)** “Now, therefore, you are **no longer strangers and foreigners**, but **fellow citizens** with the saints and **members of the household of God**.”

**Romans 8:15 (NKJV)** “For **you did not receive** the **spirit of bondage** again to fear, but you received the **Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, ‘**Abba, Father**.’”

**1 John 3:1 (NKJV)** “Behold what **manner of love the Father has bestowed on us**, that we should be **called children of God**! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.”

**Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)** Let us therefore **come boldly** to the **throne of grace**, that we may **obtain mercy** and **find grace** to help in time of need.

### Practical Application

Treat God like your loving Father and fellow believers as brothers and sisters. Cultivate love, forgiveness, and support. Find ways to connect with God and fellow believers.

## 4. The Church is God’s Dwelling Place

**1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV)** “**Do you not know** that you are the **temple of God** and that the **Spirit of God dwells in you**?”

**Ephesians 2:21–22 (NKJV)** “In whom the whole building, being **fitted together**, **grows** into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being **built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit**.”

**QUESTION:** Am I helping to build up or tear down God’s house? Or am I simply not engaged?

**2 Corinthians 6:16 (NKJV)** “And **what agreement** has the **temple of God** with idols? For **you are the temple** of the living God. As God has said: ‘**I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people**.’”

### Practical Application

Invite the Holy Spirit into your life daily. Recognize that God dwells not just in a building, but in you. Cultivate reverence and purity as a dwelling place for God.

## 5. The Church is God’s Plan to Reach the World

**Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)** “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

**Acts 1:8 (NKJV)** “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**Mark 16:15 (NKJV)** “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’”

### Practical Application

Share the Gospel in your words and actions. Be intentional with conversations. Ask God each day, “Who can I reach with Your love and truth?”

## 6. The Church is a Place of Equipping

**Ephesians 4:11–12 (NKJV)** “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **for the equipping of the saints** for the **work of ministry**, for the **edifying of the body of Christ**.”

**2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV)** “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others** also.”

**Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV)** “And let us **consider one another** in order to **stir up love and good works**, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

### Practical Application

Engage in discipleship opportunities. Don’t just attend church—grow through it. Look for one skill, truth, or lesson each week to apply and share with someone else.