

Submitting to God’s Plan for the Mission of the Church (2)

Ephesians 4:11-16

What is the PURPOSE of the WORK of the Church?

A. Two Primary Reasons Can be Seen in Scripture.

1. Leading the lost to Jesus for reconciliation (Eph. 1:7; 2:13, 16-18).
2. Keeping the saved, saved by forming Christ within (Eph. 4:20-24). Our focus in this lesson will be on keeping the saved, saved. We will be looking at the *purpose* that lies behind the work’s sake of the church found in Ephesians 4:11-16.

B. Focus on For.

“For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:12).

1. “*For the equipping of the saints*” – What does “equipping” mean and who should be equipped?

*Around 1985, many “evangelical” churches began pressing to make Sunday services “seeker-friendly” for those they termed as “the unchurched.” The effect was to replace “instructional” sermons with “motivational” speeches.

- a. *What brought about growth in faith and number in Acts 16:4, 5?* _____

- b. *What kind of lessons do you suppose were given during worship services on Sunday or any other day of the week when disciples met (see Jn. 8:31; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:2; Col. 3:16, 17)?* _____

2. “*For the work of ministry*” – From the context, what do you suppose the nature of this work of ministry is? Who should be about this work?

3. “*For the edifying of the body of Christ*” – What does “edifying” mean? How was the body of Christ edified in the first century? See examples Acts 2:44-47; 8:3, 4; 11:19-21.

Invitation: How did the Philippian Jailer believe on the Lord in Acts 16:30-34? _____
