

## **The Purpose of the Church**

Today, perhaps more than in any time in the church's history, the issue of the purpose of the church is a major debate. Books on what the purpose of the church is dominate the landscape and conferences call pastors to hear the latest guru, who then sends them back home with new brilliant ways to grow a church. If that model happens to fail, men often seek out another expert. Contrary to popular opinion today among many, the church's primary purpose is not outreach. While evangelism is a something we are commanded to do, it is only a part of God's ultimate desire, namely, his own glory. The purpose of God is to glorify himself, and outreach is a means by which he accomplishes his good pleasure. Outreach is very important because as men and women hear the gospel, believe in Christ as Savior and are saved, God is glorified. Actually, God is glorified in the sharing of the gospel, regardless of the response. In Romans 2:16 Paul states that the gospel will be used to condemn the wicked. The gospel is good news about the love and grace of God in Christ. The gospel magnifies God. God does things to bring himself the most glory and outreach accomplishes his ends. Paul makes this point clear in Ephesians 1:3-14. God has provided our wonderful position in Christ for his own glory and praise. Beloved, it is possible to be a prominent "soul winning" church and fail to be a holy church. Many churches today "grow" because they have a few talented people and have demographics conducive for growth. What am I saying? God desires us to be a church that is holy, abstaining from sin and growing in personal holiness. This life glorifies him. God loves to glorify himself. Let us as a church commit to do everything for his glory: the word, worship, outreach, giving & fellowship.