

# Church Matters

Our Mandate Matters  
Sunday October 25, 2009  
Pastor Warner Smith

## Message Truth:

Does church matter to you? If so, how much does it matter? A lot or a little? Many today believe that spirituality matters or even that Jesus matters, but too few actually think that church matters at all. Sadly, with increasing frequency many believe church often does not matter - that is until they need one. The fact is the church does matter, and it matters a lot. Why? The church matters to Christ; He founded it and calls it His bride. No other organization on the planet has the mandate of the church. The church is the only institution tasked with bringing the light of Christ into this dark world. By God's design the truth about His son Jesus Christ is to be found through His church.

## Message Text:

<sup>8</sup> Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. <sup>9</sup> I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret **from the beginning.** <sup>10</sup> **God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom** in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> **This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Ephesians 3:8-11 (NLT)

The Church is Unique Among Human Organizations  
Only the church:

- endeavors to execute God's plan
- is commissioned to be good news and tell good news

- is interested in saving the soul and reconciling man to God
- seeks good for all of society
- is founded by Jesus Christ

## Mandate Matters

Because the church's mandate from its founder makes it unique among all other human institutions we should focus on our mandate. Church matters to God, church matters to Jesus, so church should matter to you.

### 1. The I\_\_\_\_\_ of the Church

<sup>15</sup> . . . "Who do you say I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.** <sup>19</sup> **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**" Matthew 16:15c-19

- Jesus alone is the church's sure f\_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, **he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about."** <sup>5</sup> **For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.** Acts 1:4-5

<sup>12</sup> Then **they returned to Jerusalem** from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, **they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. . . .** <sup>14</sup> **They all joined together constantly in prayer,** along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and

with his brothers. <sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the believers (**a group numbering about a hundred and twenty**)  
Acts 1:12-13a;14-15

## 2. The B\_\_\_\_\_ of the Church

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, **they were all together in one place.** <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> **They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.** <sup>4</sup> **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.**

Acts 2:1-4

## 3. The I\_\_\_\_\_ of the Church

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, **“Brothers, what shall we do?”** <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, **“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** <sup>39</sup> **The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”**

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, **“Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”**

<sup>41</sup> **Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.**

<sup>42</sup> They **devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching** and to the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer.** <sup>43</sup>

**Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.** <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and **had everything in common.**

<sup>45</sup> Selling their possessions and goods, **they gave to anyone as he had need.** <sup>46</sup> Every day **they continued to meet together** in the temple courts. They **broke bread in their homes** and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

<sup>47</sup> **praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.** And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:37-47

### ● The Great Commandment . . . . . Matthew 22:34-40

1. The church has a mandate to “love God” which we call w\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The church has a mandate to “love our neighbors as ourselves” which we call m\_\_\_\_\_ or s\_\_\_\_\_.

### ● The Great Commission . . . . . Matthew 28:16-20

3. The church has a mandate to “make disciples” which we call e\_\_\_\_\_.
4. The church has a mandate to “baptize them” which we understand to be f\_\_\_\_\_.
5. The church has a mandate to “teach them to obey” which we call d\_\_\_\_\_.

### ● The Great Conflict . . . . . Matthew 21:12-17

6. The church has a mandate to keep “His house a house of p\_\_\_\_\_.”