

# PROMISE, PURPOSE, PEOPLE 2

**Promise:** Acts 1:7-8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

**Purpose:** And you will be my witnesses,

**People:** telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." NLT

- **I. The Mission**

- Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

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# • **II. The Message**

- **Gospel = Good news!**

- Jesus was born of a virgin.

- Lived a sinless life.

- Jesus was betrayed, and with the help of lawless Gentiles, was beaten, nailed to a cross (crucified) and died.

- His blood was poured out, shed for the forgiveness of our sins!

- He was laid to rest in a tomb and after 3 days rose again. He conquered both death and the grave.

- **Romans 10:9-11** If you use your mouth to say, "Jesus is Lord," and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. 10 We believe with our hearts, and so we are made right with God. And we use our mouths to say that we believe, and so we are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disappointed." NCV

- **III. The Means – THE CHURCH**

- When I say the word “Church,” what comes to mind?
- Ecclesiology, what it is and how it affects us.
- What are the Characteristics of a Biblical Church?
- Church in a building or in a house?
- Could we identify 5 Pillars of the N.T. Church?

- **When I say the word “Church,” what comes to mind?**
  - Depending on our cultural context and personal experiences, different images pop in our head when we think about a church, but hopefully we all understand that those buildings are not a church.
  - The word *ekklesia*, which means “called out ones” or “assembly.” It never refers to a building or place.
  - The word *church* means “belonging to the Lord”
  - The **Church** is always about people and not places or buildings!

- **Ecclesiology, what it is and how it affects us.**
  - Ecclesiology, the theological study of the church!
  - **What we believe about ecclesiology shapes the way the church is structured, how the people relate to one another, and how it goes about accomplishing its mission.**
  - Regretfully, the extent of the ecclesiology in most of our churches today is weak. People identify a church simply because it meets and has the word “church” in its name.
  - For the most part, we deem gatherings of people with any inherent focus on Jesus as churches, and that is an unhelpful practice. A church is something to be a church, but our understanding of how that is applied must be both flexible and biblical.

- **What are the Characteristics of a Biblical Church?**
  - A Meeting or a Building verses a Church
    - Jesus says that when two or three are gathered, He is there. **He doesn't say, however, that *those gathered are automatically a church.* We are not a church simply because we are in fellowship with other brothers and sisters in Christ.**
    - **Scripture gives a foundation for churches that defines their purpose and function and thereby shapes how we engage the world around us.**
    - There is a real danger of trying to define a church that fits us rather than understanding that there are biblical marks that we must adhere to if we are to be the church!
    - Thus, we need to define the marks of a biblical church that are true in all times and in all places. Then we can begin to effectively chart the course for normative expressions of the church.

- **Kingdom Culture – Church Marks**

- The marks must be anchored in Scripture, so that they are, just as the Bible is, timeless. They should also avoid taking cues from the culture, so that they can apply anywhere in the world.

- **Churches should:**

1. function under the authority of Scripture.
2. have biblical leadership.
3. exercise biblical preaching and teaching.
4. partake in the ordinances/sacraments
5. be in covenant community.
6. live/go on mission together

- **Church in a building or in a house?**

- It is utterly crucial to keep in mind that, in the New Testament, nothing is said about the church's place and much is said about the church as people.
- Many instances in the earliest days of the church, they met in houses!
- Houses however were not the only venue if we would look at Paul's letter to the Corinthians! (Chapter 11)

- **Could we identify 5 Pillars of the N.T. Church?**
- **Foundational Pillars** in the life of the born again believer can be defined as the core system of values, beliefs, and fundamental truths, which are **based completely on the Word of God**, upon which all Truth is established.
- **The strength of and commitment to these Biblical foundations largely affect how we finish the race set before us and the impact we make on eternity.**

- 5 Pillars – Acts 2:42-47
  1. Teaching of the Word
  2. Prayer
  3. Communion and or the Sacraments
  4. Power of the Holy Spirit
  5. Fellowship

One could arguably say that devotion to all the above is in and of itself a pillar

