

*ECCLESIOLOGY*  
**THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**  
Lesson 6

**The Mission of the Church**

I. TO GLORIFY GOD

- A. To bring glory to God is the primary purpose of the church (Rom. 15:6, 9; 2 Thess. 1:12; 1 Pet. 4:11). To glorify God means to magnify, extol, praise, exult God for His being, attributes and acts. Everything said and done is to glorify the God who called the church to salvation.
- B. Glorification of God may be done in several ways:
  - 1. By worshipping God (John 4:23; Phil. 3:3; Rev. 22:9). Worship includes reverence of God (John 4:23) and service (Phil. 3:3; Rom. 12:1-2). As believer-priests (1 Pet. 2:9) Christians offer up spiritual sacrifices of praise, good works and moneys (Heb. 13:15-16).
  - 2. By prayer and thanksgiving (1 Thess. 5:18; Phil. 4:6).
  - 3. By living godly lives (Eph. 1:4-5; Titus. 2:11-15; 1 Pet. 2:9).

II. TO CARE FOR ITS OWN WELL-BEING

- A. The church is to build itself up (Col. 2:1; 1 Thess. 5:11). The purpose for edification is that the church may stand against error (Eph. 4:11-16).
- B. The church is to be purified (Eph. 5:26-27). The Father will purify believers by disciplining them (John 15:2; 1 Cor. 11:32) if the believer does not purify himself (1 Cor. 11:28-31; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 John 3:2). There is also a church-wide purification by way of church discipline (Acts 5:11; Matt. 18:17; 1 Cor. 5:6-8, 13; Rom. 16:17; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14; Titus 3:10-11; 2 John 10).
- C. The church is to educate itself. The members of the universal church are to be instructed in the Word of God (Eph. 4:11-12; Matt. 28:19; 2 Tim. 2:1-2).
- D. The church is to take care of its own (1 Tim. 5:9-10).

III. TO EVANGELIZE THE WORLD

- A. The Great Commission aims at world evangelization (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48), but does not guarantee world conversion. The church has been called to be a witness to the world (Acts 1:8) and is a debtor under obligation to give the whole world an opportunity to hear the gospel and accept Christ. Of those that hear, some will be saved (cf. Acts 15:14-15).
- B. Every individual in the universal church should be missionary minded because all Christians are missionaries (“ones sent”). Every person in this world is either a missionary or a mission field. Thus missionary zeal should find expression in: (1) missionary intercession (Matt. 9:38); (2) missionary contributions (Phil. 4:15-18); (3) the sending of missionaries (Rom. 10:15); and in going forth to the mission fields (Mark 16:15; Acts 13:1-4).