

We are to be a God-glorifying Church

- A people, not a place
- A people, not a statistic
- A people, not a vendor of religious goods and services
- A people, not a venue for entertainment or theo-tainment
- A people distinct from those who are not embracing Christ as Savior and Lord
- A people who yearn to protect and promote the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus says that he will build his church and that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Why do you think Jesus established a church instead of a bunch of unassociated individuals?

Consider the Old Testament—Ezekiel 36:26-27 (new covenant Luke 22:20; Jer 31:31-34)

Now look at what God says just a bit before this promise in Ezekiel 36:22-23

Also consider why God says he saves his people in Isaiah 48:9-11

1. Based on these passages, how would you summarize God's motivation for acting on behalf of his people, his purpose in saving them?
2. Does this mean that God doesn't save us because he loves us? Does this mean that God is egotistical?

God's glory is the sum total of his attributes and we are called to display his character!

Display God's WISDOM—Ephesians 3:10-11

1. What is it about the church that enables it to display the wisdom of God? (Looking back to Eph 2:11-16 and 3:4-6 may help in answering)

Display God's LOVE—John 13:34-35

2. What commandment does Jesus give to his disciples in this passage?
3. According to Jesus, what will happen when his disciples obey this command?
4. How does our love for one another display God's glory?

Display God's ONENESS—John 17:20-23

5. What does Jesus pray for his disciples in this passage?
6. What result does Jesus see happening when God answers his prayer for his disciples' unity? (vv. 21, 23)
7. How does the unity of a local church display God's glory?
8. What are common reasons people "go" to church? According to these passages we've studied, why should we want to be a part of Christ's church?