

The Church's Mission

Bill Cullen, 2025

The Church Mission and the reason the church is here on earth is not to make Christians comfortable and to “fatten them up” on Jesus. The mission of the church is the same as that of Christ's Jesus—“to seek and to save the lost” (Lk. 19:10).

Jesus fulfilled His part of the mission by completing the work of justification through His atonement for sin through His suffering and death (Ro. 3:24-25; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Tim. 2:3-6; Tit. 3:4-5; 1 Jn. 2:2; 1 Jn. 4:9-10—Jn. 19:30) and through His training up a small group of disciples to complete what remained to be completed in the mission of God.

The church's mission, the mission we are to complete is a mission of proclamation (through both our words and our deeds) the presence of God, the love of God, and Jesus' completed work of justification/redemption (Mk. 5:19; Acts 1:8; Ro. 10:14-17; Col. 1:24), and teaching people to observe/practice everything Jesus has taught and commanded us (Mt. 28:19-20). The church mission is to make Jesus known that people might enjoy salvation and might increasingly be transformed into His image. This is the sole mission of the church. Everything else the church is about is means, not mission.

Attending to the needs and education of our members is a very important and necessary means. We need healthy and educated members in order to complete our mission. One way to understand this is attending to the needs and education of our members (in-service) is ministry. Ministry can be defined as in-service. Mission can be defined as out-service. The purpose of in-service is to enable out-service. Mission, out-service, is the reason there is still the church on earth and not solely the church triumphant in heaven.