
“Come, Let Us Reason About the Bible”
What Is the Church of the New Testament?
Bible Study Series

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” —(Matthew 16:18)

LESSON THREE — The Church — What Is Its Purpose?
(Why Did God Want a Church Established by Jesus?)

Estimated Reading Time: 10 – 12 minutes

Think about the following question: Why did God want a church at all? What was the purpose behind Jesus establishing it?

To answer this, you need to understand the **big picture” story** of the Bible—from the **entrance of sin**, to the **need for redemption**, to the **coming of Christ**, and the **ultimate establishment of His church**. The church is not just a good idea—it is a key part of God's eternal purpose for saving mankind.

1. When Sin Entered the World, Mankind Was Separated from God

To grasp the purpose of the church, you must first understand the **problem of sin**.

In **Genesis 2:16–17**, God gave Adam a command:

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”

But in **Genesis 3**, Adam and Eve disobeyed. That disobedience—**sin**—brought spiritual death and **separation from God**. And not just for Adam and Eve, but for all mankind.

Isaiah 59:1–2 explains the consequence:

“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened,
That it cannot save;
Nor His ear heavy,
That it cannot hear.
**But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
And your sins have hidden His face from you,
So that He will not hear.”**

This is the central problem of humanity: **Sin separates us from God**. And it’s not just a minor issue—God is holy and cannot tolerate sin in His presence.

Proverbs 15:9 says:

***“The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord,
But He loves him who follows righteousness.”***

God **abhors sin** because it defies His holy nature. It corrupts and destroys what He made to be good. Because of this, something had to be done to **reconcile** mankind to God.

2. The Need for a Savior and a Plan for Redemption

From the moment sin entered the world, God already had a plan to send a **Savior**. He didn't leave mankind hopeless. In fact, the very first promise of this Savior came right after Adam and Eve sinned.

Genesis 3:15 (God speaking to the serpent):

***“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”***

This is the first prophecy of **Jesus Christ**, the “Seed” who would ultimately defeat Satan and destroy the power of sin. From that moment on, **God's redemptive plan** was in motion.

All throughout the Old Testament, God was preparing the world for this redemption—through covenants, prophecies, sacrifices, and promises. But **the fulfillment would come through Jesus**, who would not only die for our sins, but also **build His church**—a spiritual body made up of the redeemed.

3. The Church Is the Result of God's Redemption Plan

Now, tie this in to the church. When Jesus came, He came to do more than just teach good morals. He came to **seek and save the lost** (Luke 19:10), to **give His life as a ransom** (Mark 10:45), and to **reconcile people back to God**.

How does the church fit in?

The church is the **gathering of those who have been reconciled** to God through Christ. It is the **spiritual body** made up of the saved.

Acts 2:47 says:

“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

When people obey the gospel—when they believe, repent, confess Jesus is the Son of God, and are baptized into Christ—they are **saved**, and God **adds them to the church**. That shows us that the church is not a man-made institution. It is the **divine result** of salvation, the **community of the redeemed**.

Paul describes it beautifully in **Ephesians 1:7** and **Ephesians 1:22–23**:

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)

“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” (Ephesians 1:22–23)

In the church, we experience the **blessings of redemption**. The church is the **body of Christ**, made possible by His blood.

4. The Church Continues the Mission of Christ

Because the church is made up of those who are saved, its purpose is now to **proclaim the gospel**, teach the truth, and live out the love of God in the world.

1 Timothy 3:15 describes the church as:

“the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

It holds up the truth in a world full of deception. It brings the message of hope, forgiveness, and eternal life.

And this is all **by God’s design**—according to **His eternal purpose**, as seen in:

Ephesians 3:10–11:

“to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church... according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The church, then, is not an afterthought. It is **the product of God’s love, the result of Christ’s sacrifice, and the vessel through which the saved are gathered**.

Final Thoughts

When sin separated mankind from God, it created a desperate need—a need for **reconciliation, forgiveness, and hope**. Jesus came to provide all of that through His death, burial, and resurrection. And when He fulfilled that mission, He **established His church**—a people redeemed by His blood, united in His name, and living out God’s eternal purpose.

So why did God want a church?

Because He wanted a family of the redeemed, a spiritual body where forgiveness is real, truth is upheld, and eternal life is the promise. That’s what the church of the New Testament is all about.

Questions to Confirm Understanding

Estimated Time to Answer the Questions: 8–10 minutes; With Scripture Lookup: 20 - 30 minutes

Read and answer the following set of questions about this lesson, and circle your answer: “True | False” or “Yes | No”. Look up the scriptures provided to confirm your answers. Then compare your answers with the Answer Key provided after these questions.

1. When Adam and Eve sinned, their disobedience caused separation between mankind and God.
True | False
2. According to **Isaiah 59:2**, sin separates people from God.
True | False
3. The entrance of sin into the world created a need for a Savior.
True | False
4. God’s plan to send a Savior was first revealed in Genesis 3:15.
True | False
5. According to **Genesis 3:15**, the Seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent.
True | False
6. God abhors sin, but does not find it to be an abomination.
True | False
7. According to **Proverbs 15:9**, “The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord.”
True | False
8. Jesus came into the world only to perform miracles, not to save the lost.
True | False
9. According to **Luke 19:10**, Jesus said He came “to seek and to save that which was lost.”
True | False
10. Jesus said in **Matthew 16:18**, “I will authorize denominational churches, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against them.”**True | False**
11. According to **Acts 2:47**, the Lord adds the saved to the church. “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”
True | False
12. The church is part of God’s eternal plan for redemption.
True | False
13. According to **Ephesians 3:10–11**, God’s manifold wisdom is made known through the church.
True | False

14. The church is described in **Ephesians 1:22–23** as the body of Christ.
True | False
15. According to **Ephesians 1:7**, we have redemption through Jesus' blood.
True | False
16. Jesus established His church before His death on the cross.
True | False
17. According to **1 Timothy 3:15**, the church is “the pillar and ground of the truth.”
True | False
18. The church exists today as a man-made religious institution.
True | False
19. According to **Isaiah 2:2–3**, the Lord’s house would be established and all nations would flow to it.
True | False
20. Did Daniel prophesy of a kingdom that would never be destroyed? (**Daniel 2:44**)
Yes | No
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Answer Key – Lesson Three: What Is the Purpose of the Church?

Estimated Time to Read the Answers: 6 - 12 minutes; With Reflection and Contemplation: 30 minutes

1. When Adam and Eve sinned, their disobedience caused separation between mankind and God.

Answer: True

Explanation: Adam and Eve’s sin introduced spiritual death into the world, which separates mankind from God, who is holy and cannot dwell with sin.

2. According to Isaiah 59:2, sin separates people from God.

Answer: True

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”

Explanation: Isaiah clearly states that sin causes a break in fellowship between God and man.

3. The entrance of sin into the world created a need for a Savior.

Answer: True

Explanation: Since sin brought separation and death, humanity required someone to reconcile them to God—this is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

4. God’s plan to send a Savior was first revealed in Genesis 3:15.

Answer: True

“He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

Explanation: Genesis 3:15 contains the first prophecy of the coming of Christ, described as the “Seed” of woman who would overcome the serpent (Satan).

5. According to Genesis 3:15, the Seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent.

Answer: True

“He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

Explanation: This foreshadows Jesus’ victory over Satan through His death and resurrection, even though He would suffer.

6. God abhors sin, but does not find it to be an abomination.

Answer: False

“The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, But He loves him who follows righteousness.”

Explanation: Proverbs 15:9 says that the way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord. God views sin as both detestable and destructive.

7. According to Proverbs 15:9, “The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord.”

Answer: True

“The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, But He loves him who follows righteousness.”

Explanation: This verse reinforces God’s hatred for sin and preference for righteousness.

8. Jesus came into the world only to perform miracles, not to save the lost.

Answer: False

Explanation: Jesus did perform miracles, but His main purpose was to seek and save the lost, as stated in Luke 19:10. He performed miracles (supernatural events) so that people would know that He is in fact the Son of God (John 20:30-31)

9. According to Luke 19:10, Jesus said He came “to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Answer: True

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Explanation: Jesus clearly stated His mission was to bring salvation to sinners.

10. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, “I will authorize denominational churches, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against them.”

Answer: False

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

Explanation: Jesus revealed His intention to establish His church (singular) on the truth of His identity as the Christ. He did not say that He would build multiple denominational churches (plural), all with separate identities and doctrines.

11. According to Acts 2:47, the Lord adds the saved to the church.

Answer: True

“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Explanation: This verse shows that membership in the church is not man-chosen, but God-given upon salvation.

12. The church is part of God’s eternal plan for redemption.

Answer: True

Explanation: Ephesians 3:10–11 calls the church the manifestation of God’s “eternal purpose,” fulfilled in Christ.

13. According to Ephesians 3:10–11, God’s manifold wisdom is made known through the church.

Answer: True

“To the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church... according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Explanation: The church displays God’s wisdom in how He saves and unifies people through Christ.

14. The church is described in Ephesians 1:22–23 as the body of Christ.

Answer: True

“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body...”

Explanation: The church is not separate from Christ but is His body—His spiritual kingdom on earth.

15. According to Ephesians 1:7, we have redemption through Jesus’ blood.

Answer: True

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

Explanation: Salvation and forgiveness are only available through Jesus’ sacrifice.

16. Jesus established His church before His death on the cross.

Answer: False

Explanation: Jesus foretold the church’s establishment, but it did not begin until after His resurrection and ascension into Heaven, on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

17. According to 1 Timothy 3:15, the church is “the pillar and ground of the truth.”

Answer: True

“...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

Explanation: The church has the responsibility to uphold, preserve, and proclaim God’s truth.

18. The church exists today as a man-made religious institution.

Answer: False

Explanation: The true church was established by Christ and is made up of those whom God adds upon salvation—it is not a product of human invention.

19. According to Isaiah 2:2–3, the Lord’s house would be established and all nations would flow to it.

Answer: True

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established... and all nations shall flow to it.”

Explanation: This is a prophecy about the church, which would welcome all nations through the gospel.

20. Did Daniel prophesy of a kingdom that would never be destroyed? (Daniel 2:44)

Answer: Yes

“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...”

Explanation: This eternal kingdom is the church—God’s spiritual kingdom established in Christ.