

**“To Display His Glory, Pt.1”  
September 8, 2013**

**CT: The church is God’s \_\_\_\_\_ instrument for displaying His \_\_\_\_\_ to the world.**

**I. The mission of the church is to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the glorious Gospel.**

A. We all know that a priority of the church and every Christian is to \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel (Acts 1:8; Matt 28:18-20).

1. Before His ascension, Christ commands the beginning church to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8).
2. Christ calls His disciples to “Go make disciples” with all His \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 28:18-20).
3. The evangelistic endeavor is often romanticized and individualized.

B. The church is created to \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel, as much as it is to preach it.

1. This is not something that can be done alone.
2. Our conduct must be “worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Phil 1:27-28; Eph 4:1-3; Titus 2:7-10).
3. The reason for this should be \_\_\_\_\_.

C. The church exists to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ one another in this mission!

1. The church exists to stir one another up to love and good deeds (Phil 1:27-28; Heb 10:27-28; 1 Thess 5:8-14; Heb 3:12-13).

**II. \_\_\_\_\_ church membership is the means by which God has ordained His people to accomplish this mission.**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ church membership strives to ensure only Spirit indwelt believers are working together on the mission.

1. Regenerate church membership means that only \_\_\_\_\_ believers are admitted to membership.

- a. This is a Baptist distinctive and a biblical principle.
- b. The OT looks forward to a New Covenant when God transforms the heart of His people to walk in His ways (Jer 31:31-33; 32:39-40; Ezek 11:19-20; 36:25-27).
- c. The NT clarifies this teaching on regeneration (John 3:3,7; 1 Pet 1:3,7; Eph 2:5,10; 2 Cor 5:17; 1 Jn 3:9).
- d. The NT teaches that the Christian community must be composed only of those who have been born again.

2. Regenerate church membership requires \_\_\_\_\_ identification.

a. Christ gave the church authority to discern who is born again and therefore joined to the church (Matt 16:13-20).

1) The \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven is given to the church in discerning a true confession of faith (v.19).

b. Christ gave the church authority to identify \_\_\_\_\_ professions of faith and remove them from membership (Matt 18:15-20).