

## The Purpose of the Church

I Peter 2:4-10

June 8, 2008

The Church, the body of Christ, the “spiritual house”, those who have come to Him, those who have received mercy, have a clear purpose in scripture: “to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” and to “proclaim the excellencies of Him.”

1. A. We have looked at the foundation of the Church, Christ the corner stone and, last week, we looked at the nature of the Church. This week we look at the purpose of the Church. Before we look into what we are here for, review this paragraph, I Peter 2:4-10, and who we are, the nature of the Church. I Peter 2:9, 1:1-3, 18-19, John 15:16  
  
B. What do you want for your life? What do you want for your kids? It is not so much what we want, but what does He want for our lives?  
Psalm 34:3
  
2. A. We are to reflect His character and proclaim His excellence. How does Peter put this in I Peter 2:5 and 2:9?  
  
B. How is that which is acceptable to God defined in I Peter 2:5?
  
3. A. Stop and think what a priest did in the Old Testament. Now look at I Peter 2:5 and notice how you, “as living stones”, are described. As the “holy priesthood”, what are we to do?

B. Do not mistake the sacrifices (plural) that we bring to God with THE sacrifice (singular) to God. Why is Hebrews chapter 10 titled “One Sacrifice of Christ Is Sufficient”?  
Hebrews 10:10-14, John 19:30

4. A. Stop and think on the statement in I Peter 2:5: “sacrifices acceptable to God.” You can offer to God a life lived in a way that is well pleasing to Him! What pleases Him?  
Psalm 71:14-16, Romans 11:36-12:1, Ephesians 2:10, 5:20,  
Philippians 4:18, Titus 2:11-15, Hebrews 13:15-16, I Peter 2:20

B. He is pleased with a life of devotion and obedience, a life of worship, a life of serving, and a life of giving. In light of the verses in 4A, how are you doing? Review the verses in 4A and look for these characteristics.

5. A. What task of the Church do you see in I Peter 2:9?  
I Peter 3:15

B. If Christ is the joy of your life, you will want to share that joy with others. Does your life now reflect what your life will be like in the future?  
Luke 15:6, 9, 32, Acts 10:40-44, Revelation 4:8-11, 5:8-14