III. THE FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH

A. To God - WORSHIP
1. "To adore, to pay homage, to show reverence"
a. 1 Ch. 16:29; Ps. 95:6; 96:9
b. Mt. 4:10 "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."
c. Jn 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."
2. The ultimate aim of the Church is to glorify the name of God.
a. Too often our ultimate aim can be misdirected.(Mt. 15:8)
(1) Perpetuate our own existance.
(2) Occupied with some pet doctrinal issue.
(3) Converting "new members" for numbers sake.
(4) Service to humanity.
b. 1 Pt. 4:11
3. How is this done?
a. In the worship assembly.(Ac. 2:42&47)
(1) The Lord's Supper.(Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Co. 11:23-29)
(2) Psalms, hymns & spiritual songs.(Ep. 5:17-21; Col. 3:16)
(3) In prayer.(1 Co. 14:14-15,19; Ac. 4:31)
(4) In giving.
(5) In exhortation.
b. In fellowship.(Ac. 2:46-47)
c. In daily activities.(1 Co. 10:31 "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."
4. Worship is an activity of the spirit.(Ph.3:3)
a. It is more than reverence or respect.
b. It is more than just praying or giving or singing, etc.
c. We worship when we genuinely respond to God and express to Him from the depth of our souls our love and reverence and adoration.

B. To each other - EDIFICATION
1. "To build up, to strengthen"(Eph. 4:11-13,16)
2. There is a vast difference between "EDIFICATION" and "EDUCATION".
3. Two areas.
a. Daily association and fellowship.(Ro. 14:19 "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."
b. In the worship assembly.(1 Co. 14:26)
(1) "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."(1 Co 14:33)
(2) "Let all things be done decently and in order."(1 Co 14:40)
(a) We see the danger of tongue speaking and all trying to speak at once, etc.
(b) What about being unprepared? haphazard in arranging services? being habitually late? wandering around during services?

C. To the world - EVANGELIZE
1. The Great Commission.(Mt.^28:18-20; Mk. 16:14-16)
a. Eph. 3:8-11
b. The example set by the early Church.
(1) Ac. 5:42
(2) Ac. 8:1-4
2. Two reasons make the Great Commission a responsibility of all who are Christians.

a. We should have a passion to see lost souls saved.
b. Our salvation depends on our own willingness to tell others of the "unsearchable riches of Christ."

3. The following census was taken to determine what attracts people to a given church.
   9% because of architectural beauty.
   14% " " prior church membership
   18% " " convenience to home
   3% " " the preacher
   22% " " respect for the members
   34% " " INVITED BY A FRIEND

D. To all humanity - LOVE
   1. Eph 3:14-19
   2. What will love express?
      a. service
      b. compassion
      c. understanding
      d. patience
      e. honesty
      f. goodness