The Mission of the Church

Some think the church is the…

…building

…place to get a secular education

…place to socialize (make new friends)

…place to enjoy recreation (Gym)

…place to eat

…place that will provide for all my needs

But is that what the Bible teaches?

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Mission of the Church Here

Just as good companies are constantly reminding their employees of why it exists and what the founder desired when he sacrificed his money to start the company, we need to be prompted as to why we exist as a church for our founder, head, and Savior or we will fail.

What is the mission of the Rivermont church of Christ among many churches here?

We have the inspired, infallible, and inerrant words of our Lord to guide us (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

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What is the church?

It was built and purchased by the blood of Jesus for the eternal purpose of saving souls.
(Eph. 3:11; Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28)

Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. (Ephesians 5:25)

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What is the church?

Church- Ekklesia- from ek, "out of," and klesis, "a calling" (kaleo, "to call")

Sinners are called out of Satan's kingdom and transferred to the Lord's kingdom. (Colossians 1:13)

The Lord added the saved to the church as they willing to repent and be baptized. (Acts 2:41, 47)

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What is the church?

The church is a spiritual body of saved people.

It is the household or family of God. (1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 3:15)

It is made up of "living stones" (1 Peter 2:5a) not of brick and mortar like in a physical building.

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What is the church?

It is made up of priests who offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God (1 Peter 2:5b) and not what the church can offer that will please me.

While many walk according to the flesh seeking earthly rewards, the Christian eagerly waits for Jesus' return so that he can be transformed to enjoy eternal life. (Phil. 3:20-21)

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The Mission of the church is Spiritual (Worship)

The members worship together to praise God and encourage one another to love and good deeds.
(John 4:23-24; Hebrews 10:23-25)

In the Lord's Supper, brethren remember His death until he comes again.
(1 Corinthians 11:23f)

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The Mission of the church is Spiritual (Worship)

They sing making melody in their heart to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:19)

They study and learn the apostles doctrine in the New Testament. (Acts 2:42)

They pray for God's word to spread rapidly and be glorified. (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

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The Mission of the church is Spiritual

Evangelism- primary focus is to save souls.

Individually, Christians are to teach the lost. (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2; Acts 8:4)

Collectively, the church should sound forth the word. (1 Thessalonians 1:7-8) (Teaching)

Radio, Newspaper, Internet, Bulletins, Tracts, Correspondence Course, or Gospel Meetings.

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The Mission of the church is Spiritual

The church is to build up (edify) its members so that they will grow up to be like Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Sound teaching is preached so that brethren will mature in the faith to discern good from evil and not be deceived by the errors of men.

(2 Timothy 4:2-4; Hebrews 5:12-14)

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The Mission of the Church is Not Political

The kingdom/church is not an earthly political force. (John 18:33-36)

The apostles did not advocate overthrowing the government even though they were persecuted by the civil authorities. (Acts 4; 24; 25)

It doesn't tell people who to vote for.

It doesn't allow voting machines in our building.

It doesn't allow politicians in the pulpit in for a rally to get votes.

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The Mission of the Church is Not Political

Does this mean an individual Christian cannot be involved in politics?

We are all subject to the government which has been established by God. (Romans 13:1f)

But as citizens of the USA, we have the freedom to vote and freedom of speech to uphold God's word on moral issues. (sexual purity vs. promiscuity, sobriety vs. drinking alcohol, pro-life vs. abortion, God's definition of marriage vs. homosexual marriage, etc.)

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The Mission of the Church is Not Economical

The only way that the church can raise funds for its mission is the freewill offerings of its members. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

Therefore the church is not authorized by the Lord to have a raffle, bake sale, garage sale, wash cars, sell books, or go into the real estate business to finance the work of the church.

An individual Christian can go into business but the church cannot.

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The Mission of the Church is Not in Secular Education

Did the church set up schools to educate children and adults in the 1st century? If so, where?

As an individual, the apostle Paul taught the disciples the word of the Lord on a daily basis at the school of Tyrannus. (Acts 19:9)

Private schools or colleges that teach secular subjects along with the Bible do not have authority to receive support from the church.

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The Mission of the Church is Not Social

"The Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking." (Romans 14:17)

But didn't Jesus feed the 5,000?

Yes, Jesus fed the hungry and healed the sick but it was for the purpose of proving that He is the Son of God. (John 20:30-31)

Those who followed Jesus because of the loaves and fishes turned away when He taught them the truth. (John 6:26, 60-66)

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The Mission of the Church is Not Social

Recreational activities, meals, and help for all people was not provided by the church in the 1st century. (The church is authorized to help needy saints only)

Paul rebuked the Corinthians, "Do you not have houses to eat in" (1 Cor. 11:34)

What command is obeyed when a church builds a gym (family life center), kitchen (fellowship hall) or uses its facilities for social activities?

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Conclusion

The central mission of the church that Christ built, purchased, and died for was to save souls and edify the saints.

Therefore the mission of the church is not for political, economic, secular, or social reasons.

Are you a member of the blood bought body of saved people? If not, obey the gospel today!

When you are baptized into that one body, the Lord will add you to His church. (1 Cor. 12:13)

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