



Why Does The Church Exist?

Matthew 22:34-40

John 13: 34-35

September 26, 2021

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we explain the three commands from the Lord Jesus that reveal the purpose of the church.

The Text: Matthew 22:34-40 and John 13:34-35

Matthew 22: ³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

John 13: ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Our Lord Jesus gave three specific commandments that explain the purpose of the church.

(1) The church exists to LOVE GOD – the upward ministry of worship.

The church exists to shepherd the Christian to see God as the most important thing.

(2) The church exists to LOVE NEIGHBOR – the outward ministry of witness.

The church exists to make God known to every person in every part of the world.

(3) The church exists to LOVE ONE ANOTHER – the inward ministry of nurture.

The church exists to express the love and care of the Father for every child of God.

Response

The church is how God administers our *alignment* with God, *assignment* from God, and *affection* through God.

Sunday Text Questions for Matthew 22:34-40 and John 13:34-35 (“I Will Build My Church” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: How does the local church help you as you walk with Christ?
- 2) Read the texts aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Based on the Matthew text, how is the lawyer (scholar) trying to “test” Jesus (Matt 22:35)?
- 4) What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind (Matt 22:37)?
- 5) How would you define what Jesus means by “neighbor” (Matt 22:39)?
- 6) We all love friends and family, but how well have you loved your neighbors near you at home, work, or school?
- 7) Based on the John text, Christians are to love one another “just as” Jesus loved them (John 13:34). What would that kind of love look like?
- 8) How will the love inside the church communicate something to those outside the church (John 13:35)?
- 9) How do the three commandments of Jesus (love God, neighbor, one another) help explain the purpose of the church?
- 10) In what ways can you be more obedient to these commands in your submission to the Lord Jesus?

Further study this week: Passages on the Kingship and Lordship of Jesus: Revelation 19:16 (Mon); Philippians 2:8-11 (Tues); Hebrews 1:8 (Wed); Matthew 19:28 (Thurs); Colossians 1:15-20 (Fri).