

The work of the church

- See the divinely-appointed work given to the church so that we will be zealous for doing it and doing it in God's way.

What is the mission and work of the church?

- We are speaking in this lesson about the work assigned by God to the local church
- There is no collective functioning of the church universally
- We will see there are 3 main areas of work divinely-assigned to the church
 - Evangelizing
 - Edifying itself
 - Relieving its own needy

Edification

- Edify = literally, “to build a house”
- Sometimes translated “build up”
- Does not mean “to feel good”
- In the second part of the great commission
 - Matthew 28:18-20
- Christ arranged His church for it to edify itself
 - Ephesians 4:11-16
 - Includes
 - Growth
 - Development
 - Strengthening
 - Stabilizing
 - Edification is rooted in and sourced from the word of God
 - c.f. Acts 20:32

Edification

- In addition to the word of God, some key ingredients
 - Love
 - 1 Corinthians 8:1
 - Ephesians 4:15ff
 - Colossians 3:14-15
 - Peace
 - Romans 14:19, Ephesians 4:3
 - Service
 - Romans 12:6-8
 - Galatians 5:13

- Growth, development, stabilizing, strengthening
 - Philippians 1:9-11
 - Colossians 1:9-12
 - Colossians 2:5-7
- Growth in knowledge
- Growth in faith
- Growth in assurance
- Strengthening to withstand trial & temptation
- Growth in love and good works
- Stability to identify error and not be swayed by it
- More firmly planted in truth
- Right character encouraged
- Better able to teach others

Edification

- To be sure, not all edification is accomplished collectively by the whole church
 - Colossians 1:9-12
 - 2 Peter 3:18
 - 1 Timothy 6:11-12
 - Hebrews 3:13-14
 - James 5:19-20
 - Galatians 6:2

Edification

- The church edifies itself...
 - When it assembles to worship
 - 1 Corinthians 14
 - Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16
 - Hebrews 10:24-25
 - Acts 20:7
 - 1 Corinthians 11:17ff
 - Through teaching the gospel of Christ
 - Acts 2:42
 - Acts 11:26