

The Church doesn't have a mission. God's mission has a Church.

God's church is the community of believers.

The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 16:19 (ESV)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. 1 Thessalonians 1:1 (ESV)

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied. Acts 9:31 (ESV)

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her Ephesians 5:25 (ESV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

Jesus perfectly aligns His church to Himself, providing the foundation and strength to carry out God's mission.

Jesus is the cornerstone of His church.

For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11 (ESV)

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. Psalm 118:22-23 (ESV)

Jesus provides the proper <u>alignment</u> for His church to serve on God's mission.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, Ephesians 2:19 (ESV)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

Jesus provides the strength for His church to serve on God's mission.

...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. Ephesians 2:20-21 (ESV)

But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (ESV)



Am I aligning myself to Jesus in all areas of my life?

Am I relying on God's strength or on my own strength?

MY NOTES:



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

What is the foundation of the Church? Is it tradition? Specific doctrine? The Pastor?

All of those things have been treated as the foundation of specific churches in the past but the foundation, the cornerstone, the leader of the Church is Jesus.

Jesus aligns the Church into proper relationship with Him and consistently leads us to posture ourselves in relationship to Him as Lord. He strengthens those who depend on Him to fulfill His mission.

He is the unmoving, never changing, solid Rock that we are built upon and when we depend on Him we are strengthened and built to fulfill God's mission to restore a broken world back to Him.

TALK-IT-OVER:

If someone asked you to describe the Church, how would you describe it? Would it include the local church, your family, the city, and the nation?

Do you believe that God wants to be Lord of all of those places and that we, as the Church, are called to bring Jesus to each of those places? Why or why not?

What is an area of your life that you need to align to Jesus? What is an area of your life where you are depending on your strength and not on God's strength?

What is one next step you can take today? Who is someone I need to tell about this?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1: 1 John 1:7 Day 2: Isaiah 28:16; Deuteronomy 32:1-4 Day 3: John 1:10-13 Day 4: Isaiah 41:10 Day 5: 1 Timothy 3:14-16 Day 6: 2 Corinthians 5:20-21