

What Is the Church Meant to Be?

by Mark Emery

Part 7: The Church Goes Outward

Thank you for continuing to walk with me through this inquiry into what Scripture says the Church is meant to be.

So far, we have seen the Church as a living **body**, a people called to **action**, a life marked by **freedom**, a faith that produces **fruit**, a community shaped by **fellowship**, and a body that builds itself up in **love**.

In Part 7 we'll address this important question:

Where does all of this ultimately lead?

Does the life of the Church remain within its own walls, or does it move outward into the world?

I'm sure you already know Scripture's clear answer, so again, this isn't meant to be teaching as much as a catalyst for discussion, ideas, and questions that can help us grow together and become the best church we can be!

In **Luke 19:10**, Jesus says:

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”

This is the mission of Christ.

And as His people, it becomes our direction as well.

We do not simply wait—we go.

Jesus also describes His followers in **Matthew 5:14–16**:

“You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Light is not meant to be hidden.

It is meant to be seen.

Not for our recognition, but so that others might see the work of God and be drawn toward Him.

And Paul reminds us in **2 Corinthians 5:20**:

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making His appeal through us.”

That is a remarkable calling.

An ambassador does not remain at home. An ambassador is sent.

The word *ambassador* comes from a term meaning ‘to send’ or ‘to carry a message.’ Those are all action-based definitions.

What’s beautiful about God’s plan is that not every believer will express this calling in the same way.

Some are bold and outspoken.

Some are quiet and relational.

Some serve behind the scenes.

Some step forward publicly.

But every one of us carries the presence of Christ into the places we go.

Into conversations.

Into relationships.

Into everyday moments that may seem small, but are often deeply meaningful.

A Church that lives out this outward call begins to look like a place where:

- people are mindful of those beyond themselves
- faith is lived in daily life
- kindness, truth, and grace extend beyond the walls
- others are welcomed, not overlooked

This outward movement is not something separate from who we are.

It is the natural overflow of a life rooted in Christ.

A body that is alive...

A faith that is active...

A life that is free...

A heart that is being transformed...

A people who love one another...

All of these things point outward.

Takeaway:

The Church is not meant to turn inward on itself. As we follow Christ, we are sent into the world as His representatives—living, serving, and shining in our own unique ways that draw others toward the light... toward Him.

Questions to Ponder:

How do I see myself as a light, and in what ways do I have a unique way of shining Christ's light into the world?

Do I wake up each day in the mindset that I'm an ambassador? How can that thinking cause the mundane to become more exciting?

Do I think of outreach as an event, or as a way of living? How can I reach out in ways that complement, and don't condemn, my personality?

Coming next...

◆ **PART 8 — The Church Welcomes All**