

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart...

What is one purpose of the church? The major purpose for the church's existence is the same purpose that God has. "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth." (I Tim. 2:3-4) God's desire is plainly stated. He wants people saved, and they can't be saved without the truth. The church, the living church of God, is the pillar and the support of the truth (I Tim. 3:15). If we, the church of Christ, do not support, uphold and teach the truth so people will be saved, we are no longer the church of the living God. We need to always be reaching out to save people with the truth!

What prevents us from reaching out? What holds members back from helping with the desire of God? **Selfishness!** Selfishness is a great obstacle to overcome. Many parents train their children to be selfish by teaching that the church is here to serve them! (If it's not fun, I don't want to do it!) Programs are in place to attract people to us, not the Lord! We want to look good to others so they will come. Some ask, "What's wrong with that?" The question centers on us, not the Lord. For souls to be saved in the end, only the truth, the gospel of our Lord has the *power* to save anyone (Rom. 1:16-17). We can have a large congregation of our Lord, but if it's selfish and fleshly, how many will make it to heaven? How many are really converted to Jesus?

Here's a great example. People don't want to be bothered with "church things" three times a week. Our schedules are too busy! We've placed ourselves into a busy schedule and have become selfish in the process. If the "church" schedule doesn't fit our schedule, we simply reject the one so we can continue to pursue our own things! We are always on the go, doing this, doing that, and in the end, where will it really take us? Not to the Lord! I'm afraid that some are going to "busy" themselves right out of heaven. It's all rooted in selfishness, not in the purpose of the Lord.

God wants people saved. Salvation should be the most wonderful blessing we possess. We should always be walking in it, basking in it and praising our Lord for it! It should excite us and motivate us to reach out to others with this saving message. Our lives should be built around the truth of the gospel, desiring, wanting, and doing whatever it takes to grow in that direction. It should make us be careful of becoming involved in activities that aren't taking us anywhere and are pushing out our purpose from God. Unless one is converted with a whole heart to Jesus, they will die in their sins!

Let me ask again, what is one major purpose of the church? Are you part of that purpose? How do you show it? Think about it!!!