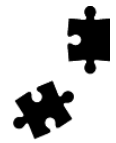


# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE CHURCH



## Lesson 2: The Five Functions of the Church

- I. **Her function toward the world:** The church is to attest the reality of Jesus Christ, His death, and bodily resurrection to the unbelieving world—**Matthew 28:19–20; Acts 1:8.**

When evangelism stops being an active function of the church, we lose our outward focus and become so inward oriented that our hearts atrophy and dry up.

- II. **Her function toward the nation Israel:** The church is to provoke the Jewish people to consider the fresh manifestation of God's mercy and grace on her so that they will come to faith in the Messiah—**Romans 11:11–14.**

When provocation stops being an active function of the church, we lose our sense of connection with history and forget what Israel has provided for us as Christians.

- III. **Her function toward herself:** The church is to train her members to minister to one another in order to develop a mature family of believers—**Ephesians 4:11–12.**

When edification stops being an active function of the church, our spirituality becomes very shallow and superficial, in addition to becoming vulnerable to the cultural whims of our day.

- IV. **Her function toward the angels:** The church is to model and educate angels in the principles of divine grace and wisdom—**Ephesians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:12; 1 Corinthians 4:9, 11:10.**

When the education of angels stops being an active function of the church, we become dependent on what our senses can experience and forget that we are a part of an invisible war.

- V. **Her function toward God:** The church is to glorify God by radiating His character throughout the universe—**Ephesians 3:20–21; 1 Peter 4:11.**

When glorification stops being an active function of the church, we will live too much in the here-and-now and become preoccupied with our own preferences and demands.