The Church
The Purpose of the Church

As we have spent so much time on *what* the church is, we would be remiss to not cover *why* the church exists. God has definite plans for the church and definite goals to be striven towards.

I.   The Praise of God
   A. I Corinthians 10:31
   B. Everything a Christian does ought to bring glory and honor to Christ
     1. He is worthy of all praise - Psalm 145:3
     2. The duty of the believer - I Corinthians 6:19-20
   C. The purpose of the church is not to lift up itself, its leaders, its opinions, or anything other than Christ!
II.   The Perfecting of the Saints
   A. Hebrews 10:25
   B. Remember that "perfecting" means to complete or finish
   C. Christians ought to be growing and advancing in their spiritual lives.
   D. Ephesians 4:11-13 clearly states the the Spiritual gifts and roles given to church are for the good of those in the church.
   E. Fellowship also works towards this - Proverbs 27:17
III.   The Purification of Doctrine
   A. Colossians 3:16
   B. The example of Berea - Acts 17:10-12
   C. The church is constantly warned about false doctrine and teachers - Ephesians 4:14
   D. The church should not simply rely on its leadership to spot false teaching. Each and every member should be grounded enough to discern heresy.
IV.   The Propagation of the Gospel
   A. Matthew 28:19-20
   B. The mission of the church is to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to all lands and all peoples
   C. The early church is marked by its spread of the Gospel and conversions
     1. Acts 2:41, 2:47, 4:4, 5:14, 6:7
   D. It is not the duty of the church to grow numerically. It is the duty of the church to faithfully proclaim the Gospel.
     1. Too many people/preachers get caught up in growing numbers. The Bible never commands a church to increase in number. That is a byproduct of its faithfulness, but growth does not equal godliness. We are to remain faithful and allow God to give the increase as He deems fit.