

SERMON NOTES

BE THE CHURCH ON PURPOSE

Ephesians 3:20-21



BIG IDEA: The church exists for the glory of God, displayed in Christ, through disciple-making.

APPLICATION GUIDE

JANUARY 4, 2026

DISCUSS

When you hear the word church, what picture most naturally comes to mind—a building, an event, a group of people, or something else? Why do you think that picture formed?

Which of these descriptions have you personally leaned toward at different seasons of life: hospital, classroom, gym, theater, or service provider?

EXPLORE

According to Ephesians 3:21, what is the ultimate goal of everything God is doing in and through the church? Why do you think Paul ends this prayer with glory to God rather than requests for growth, protection, or success?

Why do you think Paul intentionally connects Christ and the church in the same phrase? How does this challenge both individualistic Christianity (“Jesus without the church”) and institutional Christianity (“church without heart-level discipleship”)?

Read the following Great Commission texts: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 13:9-10; 16:15; John 20:21; Acts 1:8.

- What does each passage emphasize about the mission of the church?
- What role does God play, and what role do his people play?
- How does each passage connect disciple-making with God’s glory?

APPLY

In what ways are you most tempted to think of the church in terms of what it does for you rather than what God is doing through it?

What does it look like for you personally to move from attending church to being the church?

How might our church look different if every member truly embraced God’s purpose for the church?

COMMIT

Before changing anything you do, change what you ask for. Commit to praying that God would receive glory in our church through Christ—and ask him to reshape the emphasis of your prayers from preferences to purposes.