

The Purpose of the Church *Church Visions or Philosophies of what the church is “for”*

1. The Missional Church

Focus: The church exists to reach the lost and spread the Gospel. Everything revolves around evangelism and global missions.

Key Scripture: Matthew 28:19–20 — "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Acts 1:8 — "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Strength: Keeps the church outward-looking.

Risk: Can neglect discipleship and worship if mission is seen as the only goal.

2. The Discipleship(Servant) or Formation Church

Focus: The church's main work is to grow believers in maturity and obedience to Christ.

Key Scripture: Matthew 28:20 — "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Ephesians 4:11-16 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some

evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Strength: Deep spiritual growth and biblical literacy.

Risk: Can become inward or academic, neglecting outreach.

3. The Worship-Centered Church

Focus: The primary purpose of the church is to glorify God in worship and sacraments.

Key Scripture: John 4:23–24 — "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Psalms 95:6 "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."

Strength: Keeps God at the center.

Risk: May become ritualistic or detached from daily mission.

4. The Family or Community Church

Focus: The church exists as a spiritual family where people belong, love, and are cared for.

Key Scripture: Acts 2:42–47 — "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers..."

Galatians 6:10 — "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Strength: Builds authentic relationships and pastoral care.

Risk: Can turn inward and resist new people or change.

5. The Cultural Influence Church

Focus: The church is to shape and transform society—art, politics, education, law—according to biblical principles.

Key Scripture: Matthew 5:13–16 — "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Jeremiah 29:7 — "And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace."

Strength: Engages the public square and moral issues.

Risk: Can drift into political or ideological activism.

6. The Social Justice or Compassion Church

Focus: The church's calling is to stand with the poor, oppressed, and marginalized, working for justice and mercy.

Key Scripture: Micah 6:8 — "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?"

Luke 4:18–19 — "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

James 1:27 — "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

Strength: Embodies Christ's compassion.

Risk: Can replace the Gospel of salvation with social causes.

7. The Revival or Renewal Church

Focus: The church exists to bring spiritual awakening, repentance, and the manifest presence of the Holy Spirit.

Key Scripture: Acts 2:38–39 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39"For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

2 Chronicles 7:14 — “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Strength: Renewed passion and prayer.

Risk: Can become emotionalism or experience-driven.

8. The Teaching or Truth Church

Focus: The church is the pillar and ground of truth; its job is to teach sound doctrine and guard orthodoxy.

Key Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:15 — “but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

Titus 2:1 — “But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine.”

Strength: Preserves the faith and sound theology.

Risk: Can become intellectual and lack love or mission.

9. The Fellowship or Relationship Church

Focus: The church’s life is centered on fellowship—sharing life, meals, and burdens together.

Key Scripture: Acts 2:42 — “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

1 John 1:7 — “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Strength: Builds unity and care.

Risk: Can prioritize comfort over calling.

10. Theocratic (transformational) Church or Christian Nationalism

Focus: The church exists to advance the Kingdom of God in all areas—spiritual, social, and cosmic renewal.

Key Scripture: Matthew 6:10 — “Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”

Colossians 1:13–20 — “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.”

Strength: Broad, integrated vision of God’s rule.

Risk: Can blur the line between the church’s spiritual mission and temporal change.

11. The Inner Piety or Emotional Renewal Church

Focus: The church's purpose is to change the inner life — to cultivate heartfelt devotion, repentance, and emotional experience of faith. This may include personal holiness, prayer, emotional healing, or intimacy with God.

Key Scripture: Psalm 51:10–12 — “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.”

Ezekiel 36:26 — “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

Romans 12:2 — “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Philippians 3:8–10 — “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,”

Strength: Promotes genuine repentance and warmth of faith rather than mere formalism.

Risk: Can reduce faith to feelings or private spirituality, losing sight of the communal and sacramental nature of the church.

This emphasis often shows up in:

Pietism (Lutheran or Reformed contexts), which stressed conversion of the heart and personal devotion.

Holiness and Revivalist movements, where inner transformation and emotional response are central.

Modern “spiritual formation” or “inner healing” ministries, which focus on the heart rather than doctrine or mission.