

## VII. WHAT IS THE GOD-GIVEN WORK OF THE CHURCH?

## A. The Threefold Purpose of the Church (1 Timothy 3:15)

1. As the center of God's presence – *"the house of God"*
  - a. The church is the people (Acts 14:26-28)
  - b. The people assemble together (Acts 11:26)
  - c. Christ is in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20)
2. As the center of God's activity – *"the church of the living God"*
3. As the keeper of God's truth – *"the pillar and ground of the truth"*
  - a. To preserve the truth (2 Corinthians 2:17)
  - b. To pursue the truth (Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:2)
  - c. To publish the truth (Psalm 68:11)

## B. The Fourfold Ministry of the Church

1. The ministry to the Lord (Acts 13:2)
2. The ministry of the word (Acts 6:4)
3. The ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18)
4. The ministry of the saints (1 Corinthians 16:15)

## C. The Nine Fold Fruit of the Church – After the Pattern of Antioch

1. A soul-winning church (Acts 11:19-21)
2. A preaching church (Acts 11:19-24)
3. A teaching church (Acts 11:26; 13:1; 15:35)
4. A faithful church (Acts 11:26 – "they assembled")
5. A serving church (Acts 1:26 – "the disciples")
6. A separated church (Acts 11:26 – called Christians")
7. A giving church (Acts 11:27-30)
8. A praying church (Acts 13:2-3)
9. A missionary church (Acts 13:1-4; 14:26-28)