

Task of the Church

I believe the task of the church can be found in the two Greats – The Great Commission (Matthew 28):

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

and the Great Commandment (Matthew 22):

34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. **35** One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: **36** “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” **37** Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Based on these passages we glean 5 purposes or tasks of the church:

Worship – “Love the Lord your God”

Connecting – “Baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

Growing – “Therefore go and make disciples”

Serving – “Love your neighbor as yourself”

Reaching – “Go and make disciples of all nations”

So often the church focuses in one of these purposes or tasks. One purpose or task is not better or worse than another task, but one cannot be focused on at the expense of another. “Inward” purposes like growing and connecting should not be more important than “outward” purposes like serving or reaching. All should be focused on. The church needs to make an intentional effort to organize itself relative to these five purposes or tasks. It is one thing to put it in writing, it is quite another to organize the life of the church around these purposes.