

Religion

The church's role in society

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You may have recently noticed the sign on Steeles Avenue, "Grace Baptist Church," and noted there must be a new church in the neighborhood. Then you may have asked yourself, "Do we need another church? What role does the church play in today's society anyway?"

That's not an easy question to answer in a few sentences. We may begin with words attributed to Augustine who said, in effect, that there is a God-shaped vacuum in the soul of every man. No man will find rest in his soul until he finds rest in God.

The basic role of the church is to lead or point people to God where they will find this rest or inner peace. The one who does



Rev. Allen Schmidt

not find peace with God in Christ will go to all ends to try to quell the restlessness within. He will spend endless amounts of money seeking pleasure and thrills. He will use alcohol, drugs, indiscriminate sex and more in his search for satisfaction.

As long as the God-shaped vacuum in one's life is left empty, that person will never find real satisfaction and fulfillment. The church is the one institution commissioned by God to bring the emptiness of man and the fullness of God together into a harmonious relationship. Man is essentially a relational being and must have meaningful relationships to be satisfied.

Some people might suggest that it is more efficient to proclaim the Gospel/share the way to God through the media - television, radio and the press. This, however, is to overlook the fact that people need relationships with God and with other people. God needs a human face. The church provides this. It is a place of warmth and friendship from caring people in an increasingly impersonal world.

The church provides a support group in the struggles, the hurts, the disappointments and the sorrows of life. It is important to know that somebody cares.

The church also challenges people to grow in learning, in awareness and in sharing with those around them. Churches are planted and grown in communities at great sacrifice in time and money and effort by people who care and want the best for themselves, their neighbors, and their community.

No church is perfectly doing all it ought to do nor is it all it ought to be. But then, none of her members would claim to be perfect people. They are imperfect people on a journey with God seeking to become what they ought to be. It is a journey worth joining.

than the beginning thereof..." Ecclesiastes 7:8a

Follow-through and follow up are very important. Don't let your life be full of incomplete projects. Finish what you begin.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philip- pians 4:6-7

The remedy for worry is to tell the Lord all about it. He will give you the peace that passes all understanding.

"Be still, and know that I am God..." Psalm 46:10a

Take time to reflect on the Lord and His will for your life. This will take a lot of hassle out of life...

Bible Digest

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is six hundred threescore and six." Revelation 13:16-18

Are you ready for the end times? If you don't know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, the Devil will deceive you. Don't put it off another day. Trust Jesus now. The end is coming.

"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness." Ephesians 6:14

One of the important parts of our spiritual armor is truth. Build your life and philosophy of Jesus for He is the truth.

"Better is the end of a thing

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