



***Equipped for The Inevitable  
“The Practical Result of Redemption”***

**1 Peter 1:22-25**

The church is made up of many diverse people: individuals of different race, color, nationality and personality. The diversity of the Body of Christ is amazing. It is only the Lord Jesus who can build such a dynamic group.

The Scripture is clear as to the one core purpose of the church. However, for as many Christians that are asked - “*What is the purpose of the church?*” - as many answers will result. We all have a different *opinion* as to our purpose, and it is most likely the result of a confusion of *attitude* with *action*.

Jesus did not command the church to *win* anyone; He did command the church to be His *witnesses* to everyone. The book of Matthew and Acts clearly indicate that the building of the church numerically via conversion of souls is the action of Jesus Himself. (*cf. Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47*)

One of the schemes of Satan is to distract the church from its primary task. That is why many Christians are confused about its purpose. We have elevated certain “good works” for His church above the priority of Jesus. In other words, we have taken it upon ourselves to rank the winning of souls over love for the saints. We do this because we think it is up to us to build God’s church.

The numerous schisms, divisions, and scandals of the church amaze the world. Their existence leads observers to skepticism and disrespect. All the while the church wonders why people are not attracted to Jesus.

Jesus gave the church its core command: ***“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”***  
(*John 13:34-35*)

***Peter picks up on this command and restates it by helping us to understand how to obey with a pure motive.***

***\*\* Christians are to demonstrate authentic love for each other because of our new birth.***  
(*1 Peter 1:22-23a*)

At the moment we were saved, we were given the capacity to demonstrate supernatural love. When we evidenced “...**obedience to truth**...” (were saved), we also purified our souls.

“...**purified**...” is a perfect participle that describes a past action with continuing results. Not only did God cleanse our impure past, He also gave us new capabilities for the present and future, namely the capacity to authentically love.

Peter defines true faith: it is a work of God that brings us out of darkness into light and transforms us into a new creation. We will have new priorities, new passions, new desires, new disciplines, and most importantly a new love.

This new life in Christ is the essence of faith. But this is not an abstract concept; instead it is an authentic reality demonstrated in our “...**obedience to truth**...” This moves us from concept to construction - from theory to practice.

The practical step toward obeying the truth is how we treat one another. It is only here in our true love for one another that we are authentically known as the sons and daughters of God.

**\*\* Christians are to demonstrate authentic love for each another because of God's Word. (1 Peter 1:23b-25)**

“...**seed**...” represents the source of life. Everything that comes to life in the created order begins with a seed. It is the basic life source that initiates plant and animal existence. This physical seed, whether for plants or animals or humans, will eventually die. Nothing in the physical world has the capacity to produce spiritual and eternal life. God did not affect the new birth using physical seed - seed that is perishable. It is His supernatural seed that never dies which creates the new birth.

What is the never dying seed of God? His Word! It is “...**the living and abiding word of God**...” That saving word is the gospel, as Peter's choice of words indicates.

Peter is referring to the specific message of the gospel. This scriptural truth, when believed, is the “...**imperishable**...” seed producing new life. Because it is from the Lord, this life remains forever.

The apostle Paul gives us some practical ways to apply the truth Peter teaches: **(cf. Romans 12:9-21; 1 Corinthians 13; Ephesians 4:17-5:2; Philippians 2:1-8; Colossians 3:5-14; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4)**

*To whom will you show love? How will you let your love demonstrate that you are truly a son or daughter of God?*