

The Church – Part 3

Part 3

The Church

- The Local Assembly: Its Biblical Basis.
- The Purpose of the Local Assembly.
- The Power of an Assembly.



The Local Assembly: Its Biblical Basis

- ❖ **Definition:** A unit of believers who, with order, habitually meet together in a given area to worship God, to shepherd the sheep, and to teach the Word in order to build up the believers. These believers meet in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and under His authority.

The Local Assembly: Its Biblical Basis

1 Corinthians 14:33 ... as in all churches of the saints.

Many Local churches

1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth ...

Local church in one specific city

Galatians 1:2 ... unto the churches of Galatia:

Different local churches in a region

Colossians 1:24 ... Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

Every believer

The Universal Church
Foundational Truth - "in Christ"

The Local Church
Building Truth - "in the church"

1. **No Differences** - All believers are one in Christ and all share the same standing with God no matter what their nationality, gender, or social class, Gal. 3:26,28.

2. **No distinctions** - Male and female are one in Christ and both are equally saved by faith alone. Both are joint heirs of Abraham and eternal life, Gal. 3:28, 29.

3. **Security** - One can never be put out of the body of Christ, John 10:27,28.

4. **Only God** - The Lord, not man, adds one to the body. No man can save you, but Christ alone, Acts 2:47; 1 Cor 12:13.

Differences in Authority - Some have the rule or leadership over others in an orderly way, Heb 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12.

Distinction in Roles - There are definite differences of roles for the man and woman in God's local assembly, 1 Cor. 14:34; 1 Tim 2:8-12.

Not Secure - One can be put away (excommunicated) for a time. There is an outside and an inside, 1 Cor 5:13; 2 Thess. 3

Man involved - The local brethren are to receive one into the fellowship, care, and authority of a church - in the Lord, Rom 16:1,2; Acts 18:27.

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#5. **No ordinances** - To be saved and in the body requires faith plus nothing! "Not by works," Rom 3:28.

Ordinances - There are ordinances such as baptism and the Lord's Supper. 1 Cor 11; Acts 2:41,42.

#6. **Position the Same** - The position by grace alone, for every believer in Christ is equally forgiven, holy, and blameless before God in love, Eph. 1.

Performance Different - The performance of believers and churches is not always equal and is not always holy and without blame, Rev 2, 3.

#7. **One Body** - All believers are viewed as just one body in Christ, with every believer being equally a priest through the blood of Christ, 1 Cor. 12:13.

Many Members - Each individual believer is considered a unique member of the local body, with different gifts and functions to give and use. However, all should be working together as one, Rom 12; 1 Cor. 12.

Ephesians 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Purpose of the Local Assembly

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1. **Doctrine** - The preaching of the Word
2. **Fellowship** - Getting to know, love, help, and learn from each other
3. **Breaking of Bread** - Remembering (worshiping) the Lord by taking the Lord's Supper
4. **Prayers** - Thanking and laying hold of God for guidance and power

Purpose of the Local Assembly

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

- *“He that prophesied **edifieth** (builds up) the church.” (v4)*
- *“That the church may receive **edifying**.” (v5)*
- *“Seek that you may excel to the **edifying** of the church.” (v12)*
- *“Let all things be done unto **edifying**.” (v31)*
- *“That all may learn, and all may be **comforted**.” (v31)*

Purpose of the Local Assembly

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

- 1. For the perfecting of the saints.*
- 2. For the work of the ministry.*
- 3. For the edifying of the body of Christ.*

Six Metaphors of the Church

1. **A House.** Just as a house needs to be cleaned often, so does the church. (1 Tim. 3:15)
2. **A Lampstand.** As a light overcome darkness, so does the church. (Rev. 1:20)
3. **A Body.** As a body needs to exercise to keep in shape, so does the church. (Eph. 1:22,23)
4. **A Temple.** As a temple was designed for offering to God, so is the church. (1 Cor. 1:2; 3:16)
5. **A Garden.** As a garden or vine needs to be pruned to produce much fruit, so does the church. (1 Cor 3:9)
6. **An Engaged Virgin (Bride).** As a bride's love is expressed by purity, so is the church's. (2 Cor. 11:2)

The Power of an *Assembly*

1. Prayer

2. Preaching the Word

3. Purity in the Life

The Power of an Assembly

1. Prayer

- Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.
- Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

The Power of an Assembly

2. Preaching of the Word

- Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.
- Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
- Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

The Power of an Assembly

3. Purity in the Life

- 1 Thessalonians 1:5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; [**HOW**] as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:10 Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:
- Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Conclusion
