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[Track One : Believer To Disciple]

Lesson 08 : The Local Church

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Matthew 16:15-19

15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.



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Matthew 16:15-19

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."



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The Church is God's idea. Denominations are man made.

Church Gr. "ekklesia" ek = out of, klesis = a calling, to call

In its literal sense the word 'Church' simply refers to a gathering together of those who have been called out, for a definite purpose.



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Important Truths About The Church – The Body of Christ

1. The Church is Christ's Body

Colossians 1:18, 24 Ephesians 1:22, 23

2. The Church is eternal, because Christ, the Head is eternal.



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Important Truths About The Church – The Body of Christ

3. The Church is the instrument to execute Christ's purposes.

The Body executes what the head commands. Both here in this present age and in the millennium

Daniel 7: 18



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Important Truths About The Church – The Body of Christ

4. Every believer is a member of Christ's Body – the eternal Church

1 Corinthians 12:27



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Important Truths concerning The Local Church

1 Timothy 3:14-15

- 1. The local church is called “the household of God”**
- 2. The local church is the physical expression of the Spiritual Body of Christ in a certain geographical area.**



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Important Truths concerning The Local Church

3. The local church in a certain area is Christ's instrument in that area to execute Christ's purposes.



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Why should you be a committed part of a local church?

1. The Local church is also God's idea



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Why should you be a committed part of a local church?

2. It is within a local church that we live out in daily life our membership in Christ's spiritual Body – the Church. Romans 12:4-8

✓ You are able to serve others and receive through others



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Why should you be a committed part of a local church?

2. It is within a local church that we live out in daily life our membership in Christ's spiritual Body – the Church.

- ✓ There is strength, support and encouragement
- ✓ We can do a whole lot more together



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Why should you be a committed part of a local church?

2. It is within a local church that we live out in daily life our membership in Christ's spiritual Body – the Church.

✓ There are things that happen in a “cluster” which an individual grape cannot produce.

Isaiah 65:8



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Why should you be a committed part of a local church?

3. You need to be committed to one local church when you are in a particular place.

Body parts don't float around, but stay together.

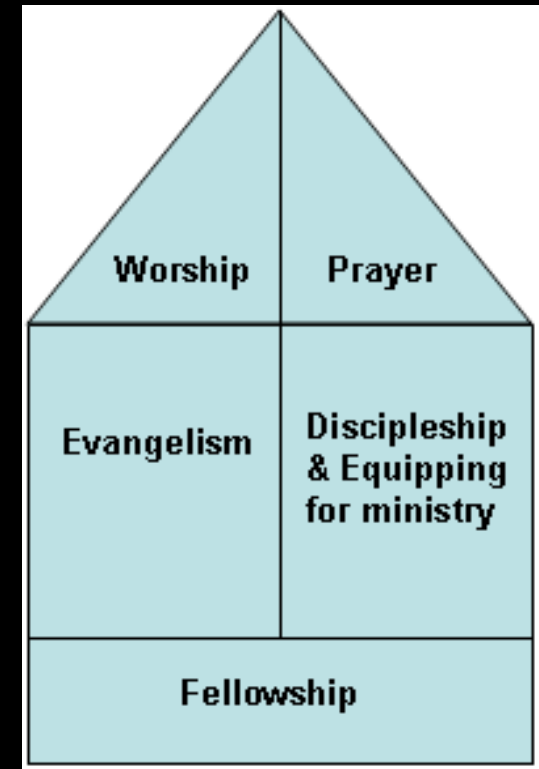


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The Mission of the Local Church

The mission of the Local church can be categorized into 5 main areas:

- 1, Evangelism & missions
- 2, Discipleship
- 3, Prayer & Worship
- 4, Fellowship
- 5, Ministry



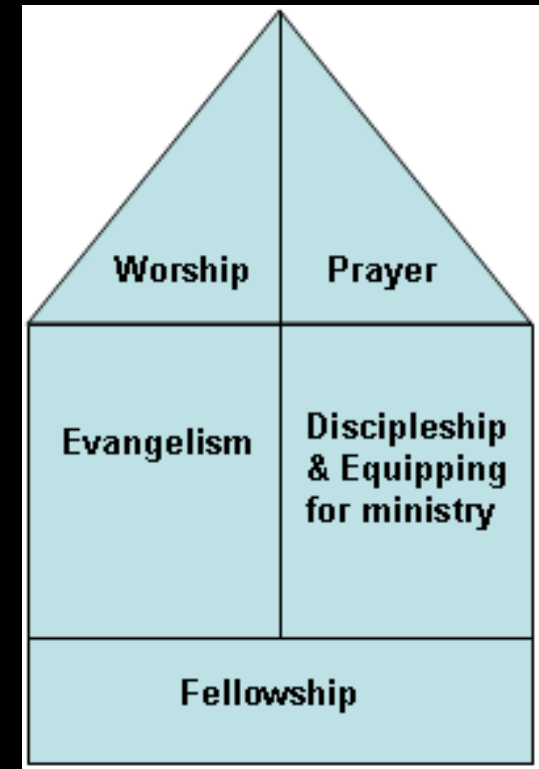
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The Three Facets of the Local Church

A Local Church is a "Body", a "Family" and an "Army"



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The Local Church – A Body

The church is a “body” analogous to the human body. The human body has various systems – a total of nine.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 Ephesians 4:16

Paying attention to all the systems is essential to health, strength and productivity.

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The Local Church – A Body

- 1. Circulatory System :**
ensuring every individual receives care and nurture.
- 2. Skeletal System :**
ensuring structure, shape and support by having proper leadership, organization and administration in place.



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The Local Church – A Body

3. Muscular System :

ensuring strength, movement and mobility by ensuring that every believer becomes a minister.

4. Digestive System :

ensuring a strong, anointed and timely ministry of the Word so that people receive, digest and absorb solid spiritual nourishment.



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The Local Church – A Body

5. Respiratory System :

ensuring a continuous, fresh, breath, inspiration and work of the Spirit

6. Nervous System :

ensuring keen sensitivity and perception to what is happening in the local body and providing a timely response.



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The Local Church – A Body

7. Endocrine System :

ensuring spiritual activities as prayer, faith, love, servanthood and maintaining core values and culture of the church, such as creativity, being contemporary, empowering people, spiritual mentoring, etc. Although present in small measures, these act as the “chemical control system” stimulating growth, health and balance.



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The Local Church – A Body

8. Excretory System :

ensuring that the church effectively eliminates unhealthy things – individually and corporately.

9. Reproductive System :

ensuring that individuals and the local church are reproducing – winning souls, discipling, planting churches.



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The Local Church – A Family

The house of God - A spiritual house

Galatians 6:10 Ephesians 2:19-22 1 Timothy 3:15

Jesus - The Master of the house Matthew 10:25

We are to live a the family of God - caring,
supporting and encouraging one another.



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The Local Church – An Army

Matthew 16:15-19 2 Timothy 2:3-4

There is rank, order and discipline in the army.

God has set leaders amongst us – to lead us forward.



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The Local Church – An Army

Military Mindset

Military Lifestyle

Military Discipline



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YOU are important in the local church.

Get “plugged in” and become a committed, thriving part of a good local church.

