

# THE LOCAL CHURCH

## The Local Church

### I. Why church, churches, the local church? According to the Word of God what's the purpose?

- A. You can lose sight of the purpose for a thing-You can do something and yet you've lost sight of why you do it
1. We can lose sight of the purpose of spiritual things-Offerings, prayer, worship, etc
  2. When we lose sight of purpose things become dry-Dead, religious, you're just going through the motions
  3. The purpose for that activity was to produce a needed result-When you lose sight of purpose for the activity and go through the motions, you're going to miss out on the results the activity was supposed to produce
- B. The word establishes purpose and production-Why we do it and what it produces
1. The further away we get from what the Word has to say about things worse off we're going to be
  2. Stick close or be duped-If you don't stick close to the Word you're going to be duped about a lot of things
  3. Things can sound good and not be good-Things can seem right and not be right, but in the light what isn't right will be exposed by the light
- C. Is church an optional thing, an ancillary thing?-Many think that going to church, that being a part of a church is kind of just optional, it's secondary, it's an additional thing, not a necessary thing and it's not for everybody and God's fine with me not going to church, having a church;
1. Where's the scripture-2/3 of U.S Christians think they don't need to go to church-I have relationship with God, I study my Bible at home, I read my bible at home, I pray at home and I can do all of that without going to church and God doesn't care about me going to church, He cares about relationship with Him
  2. Don't make light-You don't want to be caught making light of what God says is important, calling something insignificant that God says is significant

### II. What is church?

- A. Church is the whole body of Christians in the earth-**Col1:18**-*He is the head of the body, the church 24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church; Eph5:24*-*Christ is the head of the church; Mt16:18*-*I will build my church*
1. We are the church, but that is not the only meaning or application of the word *church*
- B. Church means assembly-Church is a calling out to come together; Church is Christians called out of their homes to assemble together in one place
1. Church-G1577-Strong's-A calling out, that is (concretely) a popular meeting, especially a religious congregation (Jewish synagogue, or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both: - assembly, church; Thayer-A gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly; W1828-Congregation-The act of bringing together or assembling; An assembly of persons met for the worship of God and for religious instruction; W1828-Assembly-Company of individuals in the same place; I.E-School assembly-Each class is called out to come and assemble in one place all together
  2. The same Greek Word used for church was used for assembly-**Ac19:39**-*If you enquire anything concerning other matters it shall be determined in a lawful assembly; Ac7:38*-*This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina*
  3. Church is an assembly of Christians gathered for worship in a religious meeting-**1Cor11:18**-*When ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it; 1Cor14:19*-*Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue; 23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak in tongues... 28 If there be no interpreter let him keep silence in the church*

4. The building may not be church, but the gathering is church-This right here what we're doing is church
5. Too many focus too much where believers gather-The point is the gathering the structure can vary;  
**Acts5:42**-*Daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ*

C. Church also means a company-Northsmoke is a church, a company of believers

1. Thayer-Church is a company of Christian who observe their own religious rites, hold their own religious meetings, and manage their own affairs according to regulations prescribed for the body for order's sake and are united into one body – We are a church
  - a. **Ph4:15**-*No church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only*; **2Cor11:28**-*The care of all the churches*; **Acts16:4-5**-*As they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. And so the churches established in the faith and increased in number daily*; **Acts15:41**-*And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches*; **Rm16:1**-*The church which is at Cenchrea*; **Rev2:1**- *Church of Ephesus 8 Church in Smyrna; Church in Pergamos; Church in Thyatira; Church in Sardis; Church in Philadelphia*; **1Th1:1**, **2Th1:1**-*Church of the Thessalonians*; **Col4:16**-*Church of Laodiceans*; **1Th2:14**-*The churches of God which in Judaea*; **Rom16:4**-*Churches of the gentiles*; **1Cor16:19**-*Churches of Asia*; **2Cor8:1**-*Churches of Macedonia*; **Gal1:2**-*Churches of Galatia*
2. The Church and churches-The church is made up of churches which are made up of believers; You have the Church which is the whole body, you have churches (companies) inside the body

III. **Is church the will of God? Is going to church, being a part of a church the will of God for every believer?**

A. Is leadership the will of God for every believer?-Is it God's will that every believer have leaders over them? According to the Word of God do you need leadership? Or are you find on your own?

1. Apparently you need a church, an assembly, a company and you need leadership-**Js5:14**-*Is any sick among you? Let him call the elders (those who preside over assemblies or churches) of the church; let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord*
  - a. The elders of HIS church, assembly, company-The elders of the church? Peter and Paul?
  - b. There is no addendum-“If he doesn't have a church or elders.” Because the expectation is every believer should have a church and leadership
2. God's way is flock and overseers and so which flock are you apart of and who is overseeing you?-**Ac20:28**-*Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers to feed the church of God*-**1Pt5:2**-*Feed the flock of God which is among you taking oversight*
  - a. God made these leaders overseers of a flock-They oversee not all the body, but a portion of the body
  - b. Which portion of the body did God not give an overseer and flock to?-The Holy Ghost said you'll oversee this portion, you'll oversee that portion; Which portion did he say doesn't need oversight/flock
  - c. You're supposed to be getting fed from this leadership-There's a level of feeding and nourishment you get through you leaders that you can't get anywhere else
  - d. You can't be able to be the church if you don't come to church to get equipped and fed
3. You are to be following someone-**Hb13:7**-*Remember them which have the rule (overseers of churches) over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith follow*; **2Th3:7**-*For yourselves know how you ought to follow us*
  - a. Could he have said just follow Jesus? – **1Cor11:1**-*Follow me as I follow Christ*
4. This leadership is watching for your life-**Hb13:17**-*Obey them that have the rule over you & submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls*
5. This leadership includes warning, direction, correction-**1Th5:12-13**-*And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you*

B. Is assembly the will of God?-Do you need to assemble together with other believers?

1. Are we supposed to be gathering together, assembling, going to church, having church?-**Hb10:25**-*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; **AM**-Not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction] as the habit of some; **IC**-You should not stay away from the church meetings as some are doing; **TL**-Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do*
    - a. Don't let their habit become your habit-Some had developed the habit of not assembling together
    - b. Is this the Bible-Is He writing by inspiration of the Holy Ghost?
    - c. You don't have to go to church to be saved, but you do have to go to church to be obedient-How does life go when you don't do what God says and do what you want instead
  2. Assembling together is seen multiple times in the scripture-**1Co11:18**-*First of all, when you come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; **Ac14:27**-When they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them; **Ac11:26**-It came to pass, that a whole year they (Barnabas & Saul) assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people*
- C. Is being a part of a company of believers the will of God?-Do you need be a part of company of Christians?
1. If you are a part of the church you should be part of a church-In the scripture there were no special Christians who weren't apart of assemblies, churches, flocks
  2. All body parts are in close proximity to other body parts-**Ac2:42**-*They continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread & in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles*
    - a. There are no isolated, disconnected floating parts-We're the body of Christ and you're a part of the body; You don't have any body parts that just float around out there by themselves
    - b. Just me and Jesus-It's just me and the head; Jesus is close to the body and so if you really are close to him you'll be close to the body like He is
  3. You can't say you don't need other believers and be right-**1Co12:20**-*Now are they many members, yet but one body; And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of you: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you*
  4. You're supposed to be serving the saints in your company-**Gal5:13**-*By love serve one another*-He wrote this to the company of believers at Galatia and he's telling them serve the ones in your company
  5. There's a lot said about ministry to the lost, but we are supposed to be ministering to the saints-**Hb6:10**-*For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which you have showed toward his name, in that you have ministered to the saints and do minister, **1Cor16:15**-You know the house of Stephanas, that is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints*
    - a. There's things God's placed in you that others in your company need and things in them that you need
  6. There gifts in you that are supposed to be benefiting and blessing those in your company-**1Pet4:9**-*Use hospitality one to another (those of the household of faith) without grudging. As every man has received the gift (a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment), even so minister the same one to another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God*
  7. Healing can involve other people-**Js5:16**-*Confess your faults one to another that you may be healed*
  8. Sometimes the encouragement and strength you need involves other people-**1Th5:11-AM**-*Encourage (admonish, exhort) one another and edify (strengthen and build up) one another, just as you are doing **Rm1:12-AMP**-That we may be mutually strengthened and encouraged and comforted by each other's faith*
  9. You're supposed to be considering other people in your company-Should you consider/think about someone other than yourself? **Hb10:24-AMP**-*Let us consider and give attention, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities*

- a. Should believers be watching over other believers?-I thought that was the pastor's job
- b. You can be an inspiration and an encouragement to others-I thought that was the pastor's job

#### IV. God has set you in the body somewhere, in the church, in a church

- **1Cor12:18-KJ**-Now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it has pleased Him; **ERV**-God put the parts in the body as he wanted them. He made place for each one; **PH**-God has arranged all the parts in the one body according to his design; **NRSV**-God arranged the members in the body, each one of the, as he chose; **VO**-God has meticulously put this body together; He placed each part in the exact place to perform the exact function He wanted
  - A. God has set in you body, in the church, in a church under the leadership as he sees fit-You are a member of the body and God has set you in the body as he sees fit
  - B. You don't decide you discover-It is not for you to decide the company of believers you're in, the leadership you're under, the church you go to, its for you to discover
  - C. The devil does not want you where God has placed you-**Ecc10:4**-If the anger of the ruler rises up against you, leave not your place
  - D. We rarely see people coming to church consistently struggling over a long period of time-Usually the ones who struggle the most are the ones who can't do the simplest thing which is show up to church
  - E. You're part is to help that church accomplish it's purpose-Each church has a specific purpose and function and when God has called you to that church you're part is to help that church accomplish what it's part is; **Rm16:1**-I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea

NOTES: Church-G1577-Strong's-A calling out, that is (concretely) a popular meeting, especially a religious congregation (Jewish synagogue, or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both: - assembly, church; **W1828-Congregation**-The act of bringing together or assembling; An assembly of persons met for the worship of God and for religious instruction; **W1828-Assembly**-Company of individuals in the same place; I.E-School assembly-Each class is called out to come and assembly in one place all together; **Thayer**-A gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly (1) An assembly of the people convened at the public place of council for the purpose of deliberating-**Acts19:39**-If you enquire anything concerning other matters it shall be determined in a lawful assembly (2) OT equivalent to the assembly of the Israelites-**Acts7:38**-This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina; (4) The assembly of faithful Christians already in heaven-**Hb12:23**-To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (5) An assembly of Christians gathered for worship in a religious meeting-**1Cor14:19**-Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue; **1Cor11:18**-For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. Thayer-Church is a company of Christian who observe their own religious rites, hold their own religious meetings, and manage their own affairs according to regulations prescribed for the body for order's sake and are united into one body – We are a church **1Cor4:17**-As I teach everywhere in every church; **Ph4:15**-No church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only; **Act8:1**-The church which was at Jerusalem; **Rm16:1**-I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; **Rev2:1**-The Church of Ephesus 8 Church in Smyrna; Church in Pergamos; Church in Thyatira; Church in Sardis; Church in Philadelphia; Church of the Laodicien; **1Th1:1**, **2Th1:1**-Church of the Thessalonians; **Col4:16**-The church of Laodiceans; **1Cor1:2**-Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints; **Acts15:41**- And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches; **Rev1:4**-The seven churches which are in Asia; **1Th2:14**-The churches of God which in Judaea; **Rm16:16**-The churches of Christ salute you; **Acts9:31**-The churches had rest throughout all Judea; **Acts16:5**-The churches established in the faith; **Rom16:4**-The churches of the gentiles; **1Cor16:1**-I have give order to the churches of Galatia; **1Cor16:19**-The churches of Asia; **2Cor8:1**-The churches of Macedonia; **2Cor11:28**-The care of all the churches; **Gal1:2**-Churches of Galatia; **Jud21:8**-There came none to the camp from Jabeshgilead to the assembly; **1Ch29:1**-Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God; **Dt31:30**-And Moses spake in the ears of all the congregation of Israel the words of this song, until they were ended; **Josh8:35**-There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them. **Acts7:38**-This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us; **Hb2:12**-Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.