

Purpose of the Church



Part 1

Purpose of the Church

Just a few books on Church:

- **Simple Church**
- **Organic Church**
- **The Purpose-Driven Church**
- **Total Church**
- **The Externally Focused Church**
- **The Ministry of the Missional Church**
- **The Emerging Church**
- **Essential Church**
- **House Church**



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So, what constitutes a church?



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Is Exodus a church, why or why not?



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The Subject We Are NOT Discussing: The Universal Church



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An Enduring Church

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Matthew 16:17-18



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The Body of Christ

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jews or Greeks-slave or free-and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13



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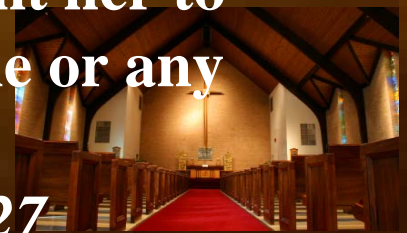
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The Body of Christ

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Ephesians 5:22-27



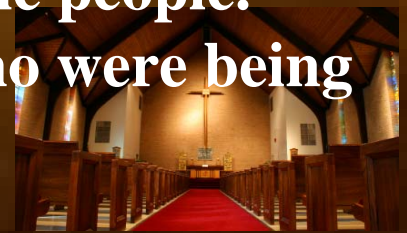
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God's Spirit Dwells in the Church

They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were being done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes, and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47



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Evidences of the Local Church in the Scriptures

ALL of Paul's letters are written to local Churches with specific instructions!



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Evidences of the Local Church in the Scriptures

Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35

And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25



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Evidences of the Local Church in the Scriptures

Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35

Hebrews 10:24-25

1 Timothy 3. Church structure is forming.

Revelation 2-4. All passages addressed to specific local churches

Acts 6. They established a criterion for which widows received aid.

Acts 15 The church gathered to decide together on a specific course of action



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Bottom Line: The local church is a given!

“The local Church implies the universal, but the universal no less implies the local; without localization, without becoming concrete in a specific occasion, it does not exist.”

H. Richard Niebuhr





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