

Lesson 6

The Local Church

Believers of the Lord Jesus Christ are called to gather for prayer, worship, sharing of the Scripture, and to further the Kingdom of God by being equipped.

The Ekklesia:

- Ekklesia translated from Greek is “church.” The church is also means the “assembly,” or the “congregation.” It is the “calling together of the saints.” As believers of Jesus Christ, we are to gather and be His Body here on earth.

1 Corinthians 12:27

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

- Believers of the Lord act as the body of Christ. This body is connected in unity as Christ is the head. Christ is the one who gives direction and leads us together.
- Each believer will have a crucial key within the body of Christ, as each member is valuable to carry out the missions. A thumb cannot be of any benefit unless it is connected to the hand, and the hand to the arm and shoulder.

Ephesians 2:21-22

²² In whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

- Typically, we refer to buildings as the “church,” but biblically, the body of Christ is the Church of Christ. We are the holy temple for the Lord as the Holy Spirit guides and orchestrates each movement of the Church of Christ.
- Each member of the church is holy, consecrated and set apart for the use of the Lord.
- We are the “holy ones” or the “saints” of the Lord.

Joining the Mission:

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- The local church is often thought of a place of worship and prayer, but it is more than that. The local church carries a strong mandate to carry out the Great Commission.
- The local church has a responsibility to win, equip, disciple, and send believers out into the world and making disciples of all nations. Every local church that carries vision considers the Great Commission. Local churches may differ on many doctrines and strategies, but we are all one and centered around the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:46-47

⁴⁶ So, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- Belonging to a church community will allow you to grow healthy and develop relationships that will grow you spiritually.
- The local church is a place where community takes place, friendships are developed and lives are saved, however, the local church is not a “bingo club.” It is a training center to build and send disciples!

Acts 4:31

³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

- Being a part of a local church will further advance the Kingdom of God. Many do not attend church because they can join at a distance, but we are called to assemble.
- As we assemble, we are able to pray for one another, encourage one another and speak the Word of God with boldness.
- The local church is where you are equipped, trained, and sent for the work of the Kingdom.

Hebrews 10:25 | The Danger of Not Congregating

²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

- There are numerous passages in scripture that encourage to congregate with the local church for many reasons, but there is a danger when it comes to not assembling with other believers.

Here are some dangers of not congregating:

- Spiritual growth will be limited.
- Wasted gifts.
- Eventually walking in disobedience and away from the truth.
- Living a life in the flesh.
- Begin living a dry life.
- Non-partaker of the Lord’s Supper together.
- Not advancing the Kingdom of God.

Your church attendance is so crucial to your spiritual growth. Get connected into a local church and begin serving in the House of the Lord.