

## **INTRODUCTION**

- A. NEW YEAR IN TIME & SPACE**
- B. THE “OUT OF BOUNDS MEMBER” OXYMORON**
- C. ALL CHURCH IS *LOCAL!*** (Acts 14:23; 15:1f)

## **I. BIBLE: THE CHURCH *IN SPACE***

- A. BODY** (Eph.4:16,1f; 1Cor.12:12f)
- B. BUILDING** (Eph.2:20f; 1Pt.2:4f)
- C. BRIDE** (Eph.5:30,31; Rev.19:7f; 1Th.4:17; see Song of Songs)
- D. MEANS OF GRACE** (Acts 2:42)
- E. WORD** (together; Neh.8:1f; Lk.4:16; Acts 20:7)
- F. BAPTISM** (together; Mt.3:5; Lk.3:21; see 1Cor.12:13; Eph.4:5)
- G. THE LORD’S SUPPER** (together; 1Cor.10:17; 11:18; see 12:12f; Acts 2:42)
- H. PRAYER** (together; Acts 1:14; 4:31; 12:12; Jms.5:16)
- I. FELLOWSHIP** (together; Ps.55:14; Ps.122:1f; Acts 2:42,46; Rom.16:16; 1Cor.12:25; Phil.4:15; 1Pt.4:10,11)
- J. SUMMARY: SAME TIME, SAME SPACE**

## **II. DOCTRINE: THE CHURCH IS *FOUND IN SPACE***

- A. CHURCH: SPATIAL REALITY vs. VIRTUAL REALITY** (1Cor.12:27,12f; see Jn.1:14; 1Jn.1:1; 4:2)
- B. SPATIALLY A *PART OF THE CHURCH* vs. SPATIALLY *APART FROM IT*** (Heb.10:25; 1Cor.11:17f)
- C. ELDERS IN EVERY SPACE** (Acts 14:23; Tt.1:5; i.e., multiplication vs. mere growth)
- D. TOGETHER EVERY LORD’S DAY** (Rev.1:10; Acts 20:7; 1Cor.16:2; see Gen.1:5f; Acts 28:23)

## **III. PRACTICE: DON’T BE *LOST IN SPACE!***

### **A. BE A PART OF YOUR LOCAL CHURCH**

1. the means of grace (Acts 2:42)
2. the Lord’s Day (Rev.1:10; Acts 20:7; 1Cor.16:2; see Gen.1:5f; Acts 28:2)
3. the fellowship of gifts & needs (1Cor.12:12f,25; Eph.4:16)
4. summary: when the roll is called down under, you be there! (see Eph.4:9; Is.44:23; Jn.1:14)

### **B. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR LOCALITY, TRANSFER YOUR MEMBERSHIP** (weeks, months; see 1Cor.12:12f; Eph.4:16; Acts 2:42; Heb.10:25)

### **C. WHAT ARE YOUR NEW *WEEK’S RESOLUTIONS?*** (Acts 2:42; see Rev.1:10; Acts 20:7; 1Cor.16:2; see Gen.1:5f; Acts 28:23)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP**

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of this passage? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you do *these* things?
6. What images in the Bible illustrate the spatial nature of the church? Which of these do you find most helpful? Why?
7. How are each of the means of grace (see Acts 2:42) spatial by nature?
8. What in our modern world inclines us to think that being together *in space* as a church is not necessary? Do you see this in your church life? If so, how can it be corrected?
9. How does the incarnation demonstrate the inherently spatial nature of the visible church? How does "ecclesiastical Docetism" describe, in historical terms, a modern problem?
10. How does the idea of "Elders in every place" demonstrate that "all church is local"?
11. Why is "out of bounds member" and oxymoron?
12. How are you a part of your local church?
  - a. Do you keep the Lord's Day or just a part of it?
  - b. Do you gather at the same time in the same space to participate all the means of grace?
  - c. How do you serve others in your local church? How do others serve you in your local church?
  - d. Is there any way in which you need to repent of sin in these things? How can you grow in these things?
13. What do you think about the necessity of transferring your membership when you change your locality? Why? What do you think about the propriety, even necessity, of transferring your membership within weeks or months of relocating? Why?