

THE LOCAL CHURCH – OPTIONAL OR ORIGINAL DESIGN? (Do You Really Need to be Part of a Local Church?)

- Matthew 16:18

A. The DIVINE IMPORTANCE of the LOCAL CHURCH.

The local church according to God's blueprint is vital for...

1. the saints to be _____. (Ephesians 4:7-16)
2. the saints to be _____ and _____ spiritually. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
3. the saints to _____ their spiritual _____. (1 Corinthians 12)
4. the saints to enjoy together _____, _____ and _____, _____. (Acts 2:41-47)
5. the saints to _____ the lost and _____ the saved. (Acts 13:1-5; 14:21-22)

B. The DESCRIPTION of the LOCAL CHURCH. (1 Timothy 3:14-15)

1. The local church is called the _____ as believers individually (1 Cor. 6:19-20) and corporately (1 Corinthians 3:16) are called the _____.

* Why are we given this description?

2. The local church is called the _____.

* What is this in contrast to?

3. The local church is called the _____.

* Why is it called this?

C. The DOCTRINE of the LOCAL CHURCH. (1 Timothy 3:16)

The written Word of God is designed to point us to the Living Word of God — the Lord Jesus Christ. All sound doctrine from beginning to end centers around the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, all local church teaching should be derived and developed from the Scriptures with Jesus Christ as the focus.

1. “_____” - Jesus Christ as the Son of God and deity, became a human through the incarnation and virgin birth. Without Jesus Christ coming to be flesh, we would have no perfect sacrifice for our sins. All Christianity stands upon this foundation. (Phil 2:4-6; 1Tim. 2:3-5)
2. “_____” – seems to refer to the sum total of Christ’s ministry on earth which was performed perfectly and without sin through the power of the Holy Spirit; his miracles, teaching, baptism, crucifixion and resurrection.
3. “_____” – angels were involved though out Jesus Christ’s earthly ministry, from his birth to his ascension. (Luke 1:26-38, 2:8-14; Matt. 4:11; Acts 1:10-11)
4. “_____” – By God’s grace, Gentiles became equally blessed with the Jews through the mystery of the Church. (Eph. 3:1-12)
5. “_____” – faith is the only correct human response to the preaching of the Gospel. (Acts 16:31; Rom. 1:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 3:26)
6. “_____” – the ascension was the final event of Jesus Christ on earth and indicated that He finished His redemptive work on man’s behalf. It also indicates that Jesus Christ is now in the presence of God the Father and that He will come again at the Rapture to take all believers in Christ home to Heaven one day.

* Are we preaching and protecting sound doctrine in our local church, especially the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?