

## The Church

### Lesson 7

#### Organization and Work of A Local Church

## The Church

1. What Is The Church?
2. Nature of The Universal Church
3. Organization and Work of The Universal Church
4. The Only Source of Divine Authority Today
5. Establishing Divine Authority

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## The Church

6. Nature of A Local Church
7. Organization and Work of A Local Church
8. Independence Autonomy and Cooperation of Local Churches
9. Institutionalism and The Social Gospel

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## Nature of A Local Church

1. Voluntarily join
2. Composition
3. Number
4. Origin
5. Imperfect human judgment of membership
6. Can be saved outside of a local church
7. Has earthly organization
8. Can be divided
9. Membership affected by death

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## Introduction

- Common error even among churches of Christ is believing local churches are functioning units of Jesus' universal church
- Therefore they must work together under centralized oversight
- Also, they must have a centralized treasury to fund such work
- But the Lord provided for only local oversight and treasury

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## Introduction

- Not only have they perverted local church organization, but also the work a local church is to do
- Activities that should be left to individual Christians to do are called the work of the church such as entertainment, recreation and secular education
- None of these things are included in the 9 things the New Testament authorizes a local church to do

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## What Is A Local Church?

- A local church is an assembly of Christians who agree to worship and work together in a specific location
- Individual Christians are the working units of Jesus' universal church, not local churches
- Each local church must oversee and fund its own work which ought to be authorized by the apostles' teaching

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## What Is A Local Church?

1Co 1:1 Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

1Co 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you. 8

## Individual Christians Are The Working Units of Jesus' Universal Church

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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## Each Local Church Must Oversee and Fund Their Own Work

Act 14:23 When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

1Pe 5:2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

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## Each Local Church Must Oversee and Fund Their Own Work

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

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## Beware of Changing Local Church Organization

- Paul warned the elders at Ephesus to watch themselves, the flock and their teaching
- Over time they departed from the truth changing local church organization eventually leading to the Catholic church
- Sadly, to some degree, many churches of Christ have unlawfully expanded local church oversight and treasury to do unauthorized centralized work

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## Beware of Changing Local Church Organization

Act 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Act 20:29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

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## Beware of Changing Local Church Organization

Act 20:30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

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## What If No Qualified Elders?

- In many local churches, there may not be at least two men qualified according to the apostles' teaching to be elders
- Instead of appointing unqualified elders, the local church should function as best it can with the men taking the lead in overseeing the work of the local church

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## What If No Qualified Elders?

Tit 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,

1Ti 2:11 A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.

1Ti 2:12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

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## What If No Qualified Elders?

1Ti 2:13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.

1Ti 2:14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

1Ti 2:15 But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

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## The Work of Elders

- God intends for local churches to be led by elders assisted by deacons
- In a local church, there should be at least two qualified elders, older mature Christian men
- Elders are also called bishops (overseers) and pastors (shepherds)

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## The Work of Elders

- They are to oversee the work and worship of the local church among them setting a faithful example
- As loving shepherds, they must first watch themselves and then watch over, feed and defend the flock, the local church
- They also are to rule with authority in decisions to be made about the work of the local church

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## God Intends For Local Churches To Have Elders and Deacons

Tit 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,

Php 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

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## There Must Be At Least Two Qualified Elders In A Local Church

Act 14:23 When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

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## They Are To Oversee The Flock Among Them

1Pe 5:2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

1Pe 5:3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

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## They Must First Watch Themselves and Then The Flock

Act 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Act 20:29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

23

## They Must First Watch Themselves and Then The Flock

Act 20:30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Act 20:31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

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## They Must First Watch Themselves and Then The Flock

Act 20:32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

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## They Must First Watch Themselves and Then The Flock

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Jas 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

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## They Must First Watch Themselves and Then The Flock

Jas 5:15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Jas 5:16 Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

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## They Must Rule Guided By The Apostles' Teaching In All Decisions

1Ti 5:17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

Heb 13:7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct.

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## They Must Rule Guided By The Apostles' Teaching In All Decisions

1Ti 3:4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity

1Ti 3:5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

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## How Is A Local Church Organized?

1. Each local church must oversee and fund their own work
2. Beware of changing local church organization
3. What if no qualified elders?
4. The work of elders

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## Organization and Work of A Local Church

1. What is a local church?
2. How is a local church organized?

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## How Is A Local Church Organized?

1. Each local church must oversee and fund their own work
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4. The work of elders

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## The Qualifications of Elders

- The New Testament not only reveals the work of elders but also the qualifications God has given that equip them for their work
- Time limits us from exploring each qualification but we note them now as given in 1 Timothy and Titus

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## The Qualifications of Elders

1Ti 3:1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.

1Ti 3:2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

1Ti 3:3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

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## The Qualifications of Elders

1Ti 3:4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity

1Ti 3:5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

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## The Qualifications of Elders

1Ti 3:6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

1Ti 3:7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

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## The Qualifications of Elders

Tit 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,

Tit 1:6 namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.

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## The Qualifications of Elders

Tit 1:7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,

Tit 1:8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,

Tit 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

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## The Qualifications of Elders

Tit 1:10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

Tit 1:11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.

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## The Work of Deacons

- Deacons are servants who assist the elders in doing the work of the local church
- A possible example of deacons working is found in Acts 6 showing their role in distribution of alms to the needy saints in the Jerusalem congregation
- They too are to be men who meet certain qualifications revealed in the apostles' teaching

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## A Possible Example of The Work of Deacons

Act 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.

Act 6:2 So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.

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## A Possible Example of The Work of Deacons

Act 6:3 "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.

Act 6:4 "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

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## A Possible Example of The Work of Deacons

Act 6:5 The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.

Act 6:6 And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

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## The Qualifications of Deacons

1Ti 3:8 Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain,

1Ti 3:9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

1Ti 3:10 These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.

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## The Qualifications of Deacons

1Ti 3:11 Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.

1Ti 3:12 Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households.

1Ti 3:13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

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## How Is A Local Church Organized?

1. Each local church must oversee and fund their own work
2. Beware of changing local church organization
3. What if no qualified elders?
4. The work of elders
5. The qualifications of elders
6. The work of deacons
7. The qualifications of deacons

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## The Work of Individual Christians And A Local Church Are Different

- Can a local church do any work an individual Christian is authorized to do?
- Many in churches of Christ have answered yes to this question
- Result – local churches now involved in recreation, entertainment and providing benevolence to the world
- The New Testament reveals a difference between the work of individual Christians and a local church

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## The Work of Individual Christians And A Local Church Are Different

Mat 18:15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

Mat 18:16 "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.

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## The Work of Individual Christians And A Local Church Are Different

Mat 18:17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

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## The Work of Individual Christians And A Local Church Are Different

1Ti 5:3 Honor widows who are widows indeed;  
1Ti 5:4 but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God.

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## The Work of Individual Christians And A Local Church Are Different

1Ti 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1Ti 5:16 If any woman who is a believer has *dependent* widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

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## The Work of Individual Christians And A Local Church Are Different

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

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## Individuals Engage In Business Not Local Churches

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

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## Individuals Provide Secular Education Not Local Churches

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

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## Individuals Provide Social Meals Not Local Churches

1Co 11:20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper,  
1Co 11:21 for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk.  
1Co 11:22 What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you. 55

## Individuals Provide Social Meals Not Local Churches

1Co 11:33 So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.  
1Co 11:34 If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.

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## Individuals Must Meet Their Family Needs First

1Ti 5:16 If any woman who is a believer has *dependent* widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

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## Individuals Are To Help Both The Lost and Christians Who Are In Need

Gal 6:9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.  
Gal 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

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## Individuals Are To Help Both The Lost and Christians Who Are In Need

Jas 1:26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.  
Jas 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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## What Is Not The Work of A Local Church?

1. Job training
2. Secular education
3. Social meals
4. Recreation and games
5. Entertainment
6. Politics
7. Child care
8. Benevolence to the world

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## Organization and Work of A Local Church

1. What is a local church?
2. How is a local church organized?
3. The work of individual Christians and a local church are different

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## What Is Not The Work of A Local Church?

1. Job training
2. Secular education
3. Social meals
4. Recreation and games
5. Entertainment
6. Politics
7. Child care
8. Benevolence to the world

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## What Is The Work of A Local Church?

- A local church is an assembly of Christians who agree to worship and work together in a specific location
- Each local church is responsible for overseeing and funding its own work
- The New Testament provides direct commands, approved examples and necessary inferences authorizing local church work

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## What Is The Work of A Local Church?

- Broadly speaking, local church work covers three areas, edification, evangelism and benevolence
- The primary focus of this work is local first and then world obligations
- Specifically, there are only 9 things authorized for a local church to do
- Many have perverted local church work by either adding unauthorized things or doing authorized things in unauthorized ways

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## Edification – Building Up The Saints By The Word of God

Eph 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

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## Edification – Building Up The Saints By The Word of God

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Eph 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

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## Edification – Building Up The Saints By The Word of God

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

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## Edification – Building Up The Saints By The Word of God

1Co 14:26 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

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## Evangelism – Proclaiming The Gospel To The Lost

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

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## Benevolence – Helping Needy Saints

Act 2:44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;

Act 2:45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

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## Benevolence – Helping Needy Saints

Act 11:29 And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea.

Act 11:30 And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.

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## Regularly Assemble To Worship God and Work Together

- Using our best judgment, we provide a place to regularly meet as a local church
- We regularly assemble on every first day of the week to worship God and work together as Christians
- The place of assembling is not special but our worship must be done in spirit and in truth with reverence toward God

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## Regularly Assemble To Worship God and Work Together

- To worship in spirit means we focus on God's spiritual nature, offering spiritual sacrifices revealed in the New Testament
- To worship in truth means we offer spiritual worship given in the New Testament not physical Old Testament worship, a shadow of things to come
- And, we are to reverently worship God fearing Him and seeking to lovingly obey Him in all things

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## Regularly Assemble Every Sunday

Act 20:7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

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## Assemble To Worship God In Spirit and In Truth

Joh 4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

Joh 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

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## Assemble To Worship God In Spirit and In Truth

Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

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## Assemble To Worship God In Spirit and In Truth

1Pe 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

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## Assemble To Worship God In Spirit and In Truth

Heb 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

Heb 13:16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

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## Assemble To Worship God In Spirit and In Truth

Heb 9:11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;

Heb 9:12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

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## Assemble To Worship God In Spirit and In Truth

Heb 10:1 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.

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## Assemble To Reverently Worship God

Heb 12:28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

Heb 12:29 for our God is a consuming fire.

1Co 14:40 But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.

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## Assemble To Lovingly Obey God

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

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## Assemble To Work Together

Act 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land?

Act 5:4 "While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

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## Assemble To Work Together

Heb 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

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## Partake of The Lord's Supper Every Sunday

- Done every Sunday when saints assemble together
- Purposes – remember the Lord Jesus' death, look forward to His coming again and examine ourselves whether we are living according to the New Covenant

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## Partake of The Lord's Supper Every Sunday

Act 20:7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

1Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

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## Partake of The Lord's Supper Every Sunday

1Co 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:25 In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

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## Partake of The Lord's Supper Every Sunday

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1Co 11:27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

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## Partake of The Lord's Supper Every Sunday

1Co 11:28 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

1Co 11:29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.

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## What Is The Work of A Local Church?

1. Regularly assemble to worship God and work together
2. Partake of the Lord's supper every Sunday

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## Organization and Work of A Local Church

1. What is a local church?
2. How is a local church organized?
3. The work of individual Christians and a local church are different
4. What is the work of a local church?

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## What Is The Work of A Local Church?

1. Regularly assemble to worship God and work together
2. Partake of the Lord's supper every Sunday

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## Sing Without Mechanical Instruments

- We are to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs
- Purposes – praise God and teach one another
- The New Testament does not authorize mechanical instruments in worship

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## Sing Without Mechanical Instruments

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;  
Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

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## Pray

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Act 12:5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

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## Pray

1Ti 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,  
1Ti 2:2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

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## Preach And Teach The Word of God

- Preach the Word of God when all are assembled together every Sunday
- Teach the Word of God to build up the saints in classes where group is divided by either age, sex or maturity level
- Women not allowed to teach or exercise authority over men but may teach women and children
- Left to our judgment to teach the Word of God on other days besides Sunday 97

## Preach And Teach The Word of God

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Act 20:7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

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## Preach And Teach The Word of God

Eph 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

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## Preach And Teach The Word of God

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

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## Preach And Teach The Word of God

1Ti 2:11 A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.

1Ti 2:12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

Act 19:9 But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. 101

## Collect Money Every Sunday

- Funds were to be collected every Sunday when each local church assembled
- The Lord does not specify a percentage of income for us to give but it is to be a willing sacrifice
- The money is for supporting preachers, elders and helping needy saints
- Also, money can be spent for expediences such as a meeting place, songbooks, communion trays and so on 102

## Collect Money Every Sunday

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

103

## Our Giving Must Be A Willing Sacrifice

2Co 9:6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

2Co 9:7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

104

## Our Giving Must Be A Willing Sacrifice

2Co 8:3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord,

2Co 8:4 begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

2Co 8:5 and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

105

## Support Preachers And Elders

- A local church is authorized to support preachers working with them or in other places
- Support for preachers was always sent directly to the preachers and not through an organization or another local church
- A local church can support elders who work hard in teaching the word

106

## Support Preachers And Elders

1Co 9:13 Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the *food* of the temple, *and* those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar?

1Co 9:14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

107

## Support Preachers And Elders

2Co 11:8 I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you;

2Co 11:9 and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

108

## Support Preachers And Elders

1Ti 5:17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

1Ti 5:18 For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

109

## Help Needy Saints

- Individuals are responsible for helping their own families first
- Then, local churches help needy saints among them and then needy saints in other local churches as they are able
- The only time one local church sent money to another local church was to help needy saints in the receiving church
- No money was sent to local churches not in need or to benevolent institutions

110

## Individuals Were To Help Their Own Families First

1Ti 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1Ti 5:16 If any woman who is a believer has dependent widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

111

## They Helped Needy Saints In The Local Church First

Act 4:34 For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales

Act 4:35 and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

112

## When Able They Helped Needy Saints In Other Local Churches

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

1Co 16:3 When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem;

113

## Only Time Local Churches Sent Money To Each Other Was For Needy Saints

Rom 15:25 but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints.

Rom 15:26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

114

## Discipline Erring Members

- After patient public and private teaching, Christians who do not repent of public sins are to be lovingly disciplined
- Discipline involves socially withdrawing from rebellious brethren
- The goals of discipline are to keep sin from spreading in the local church and bring the wayward saint to repentance

115

## Discipline Erring Members

1Co 5:1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

1Co 5:2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

116

## Discipline Erring Members

1Co 5:3 For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present.

1Co 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

117

## Discipline Erring Members

1Co 5:5 I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1Co 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?

118

## Discipline Erring Members

1Co 5:11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler--not even to eat with such a one.

119

## Discipline Erring Members

2Co 2:6 Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority,

2Co 2:7 so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

2Co 2:8 Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him.

120

## What Is The Work of A Local Church?

1. Regularly assemble to worship God and work together
2. Partake of the Lord's supper every Sunday
3. Sing without mechanical instruments
4. Pray
5. Preach and teach the Word of God
6. Collect money every Sunday
7. Support preachers and elders
8. Help needy saints
9. Discipline erring members

121

## Organization and Work of A Local Church

1. What is a local church?
2. How is a local church organized?
3. The work of individual Christians and a local church are different
4. What is the work of a local church?

122