

Spiritual Priorities

The Proper Priority

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Seek First the Kingdom of God

- In our personal walk with the Lord
 - Galatians 2:20 – Christ love me and gave Himself **for me**
 - We must personally believe and receive the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9, Acts 16:31, John 1:12)
 - We are individually held accountable by Christ for our actions (2 Cor 5:10)
 - We are personally called upon to obey Christ (John 14:21)
- In the church
 - We have come to the festal gathering (Hebrews 12:22-24)
 - God intends for us to be involved in local congregations or communities of believers

Every Believer a Member of the Church

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

1 Corinthians 12:12–13 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—**whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

We Have Come to the General Assembly ("Festal Gathering")

Hebrews 12:22–24 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

There is One Church – His Church

- **Matthew 16:18** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I **will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- **Acts 20:28** Therefore take heed to yourselves and to 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**.
- **Colossians 1:18** And **He is the head of the body, the church**, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

The Local Church

Members of the “one church” who gather at a particular location

1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, **To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi**, with the bishops and deacons:

The Local Church

- Honors the Head of the Church
- The Pillar and Ground of the Truth
- A Place for Spiritual Growth

The Local Church - Honors the Head of the Church

By observing the Lord's Supper Weekly

- **Luke 22:14–15** When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, “**With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;**
- **Luke 22:19–20** And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**” Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

The Local Church - Honors the Head of the Church

By observing the Lord's Supper Weekly

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**” In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. **This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

The Local Church - Honors the Head of the Church

By observing the Lord's Supper Weekly

- **Acts 2:42** And **they continued steadfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, **in the breaking of bread**, and in prayers.
- **Acts 20:7** Now on the first day of the week, when **the disciples came together to break bread**, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

The Local Church - Honors the Head of the Church

By not having a visible head of the local church

Acts 14:21–23 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” **So when they had appointed elders in every church**, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

The Local Church - Honors the Head of the Church

By not having a visible head of the local church

Acts 14:21–23 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” **So when they had appointed elders in every church**, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 20:17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the **elders of the church**.

The Local Church - Honors the Head of the Church

By not having a visible head of the local church

1 Peter 5:1–4 The **elders** who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: **Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers**, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the **Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

The Local Church - Honors the Head of the Church

By not having a visible head of the local church

- **Titus 1:5–9** For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and **appoint elders in every city** as I commanded you—if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. **For a bishop must be** blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

The Local Church – The Pillar and Ground of Truth

1 Timothy 3:14–15 These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth.**

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

The Local Church – A Place for Spiritual Growth

Ephesians 4:11–16 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, **may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ**—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which **every part does its share, causes growth of the body** for the edifying of itself in love.

The Local Church – A Place for Spiritual Growth

Romans 12:6–8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Peter 4:10–11 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The Local Church – A Place for Spiritual Growth

Romans 12:6–8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Peter 4:10–11 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The Local Church – A Place for Spiritual Growth

Serving one another

Romans 15:7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

The Local Church – A Place for Spiritual Growth

Serving one another

Hebrews 3:13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:24–25 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Local Church – A Place for Spiritual Growth

Serving one another

1 Peter 4:9–10 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

The Local Church – A Place for Spiritual Growth

Living Peaceably

John 15:12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Romans 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

The Local Church – A Place for Spiritual Growth

Living Peaceably

Romans 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Romans 15:5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,

The Local Church – A Place for Spiritual Growth

Living Peaceably

1 Corinthians 12:25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

James 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.

The Local Church

- Honors the Head of the Church
- The Pillar and Ground of the Truth
- A Place for Spiritual Growth