

# BAPTIST POLITY ETC. MT. 16:13-18; ACTS 2:41-57, 5:1-14

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Distinction

Local church

Universal church

Universal Church



Only

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only

Local church

**Acts 5:11** And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. **Acts 5:12** And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. **Acts 5:13** And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. **Acts 5:14** And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

**Ephesians 4:3** Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **Ephesians 4:4** There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **Ephesians 4:5** One Lord, one faith, one baptism, **Ephesians 4:6** One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

**Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

**1 Corinthians 12:12** For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. **1 Corinthians 12:28** And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets....

**Ephesians 1:22** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, **Ephesians 1:23** Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

**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 might have the preeminence.

**1. Obviously there are local churches in the New Testament.**

**2. Local churches are the center of God's plan during this age – the church age.**

**3. Local churches are central to the Christian's life, growth, health, & ministry.**

**Hebrews 10:25** **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; **but** exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

**Acts 20:17** And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

**Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. **Acts 20:29** For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. **Acts 20:30** Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

**Acts 20:32** And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

**1 Timothy 3:14** These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: **1 Timothy 3:15** But if I tarry long, **that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**

**4. Local churches are more, much more, than religious gatherings!**

**Acts 2:41** Then they that gladly **received his word** were **baptized**: and the same day there were **added** unto them about **three thousand souls**. **Acts 2:42** And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. **Acts 2:46** And they, **continuing daily** with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, **Acts 2:47** Praising God, and having favour with all the people. **And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**

**Acts 4:4** Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; **and the number of the men (ὁ ἀριθμὸς τῶν ἀνδρῶν) was about five thousand.**

**Acts 5:12** And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and **they were all with one accord in** Solomon's porch. **Acts 5:13** **And of the rest durst no man join himself to them:** but the people magnified them. **Acts 5:14** **And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.**)

## Churches, real churches, Biblical churches:

- Are made up of believers only
- Who have been baptized
- And are numbered → that is membership
- Who are also under church discipline → in all its forms
- Who are not only committed &/ covenanted to a local church's doctrine and purpose **but also to her people**

**Hebrews 3:13** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

**Romans 12:4** For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: **Romans 12:5** So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. **Romans 12:9** Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. **Romans 12:10** Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; **Romans 12:13** Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. **Romans 12:15** Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

## 5. There is also a universal church

**Ephesians 4:4** There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **Ephesians 4:5** One Lord, one faith, one baptism, **Ephesians 4:6** One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

**Ephesians 1:22** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, **Ephesians 1:23** Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

**Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

**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 might have the preeminence.

**Hebrews 12:18** For ye are **not** come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, **Hebrews 12:19** And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: **Hebrews 12:20** (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: **Hebrews 12:21** And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

**Hebrews 12:22** But ye **are** come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, **Hebrews 12:23** To the general assembly (πανηγύρει) and church of the firstborn (ἐκκλησία πρωτοτόκων), which are written in heaven (ἐν οὐρανοῖς ἀπογεγραμμένων), and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, **Hebrews 12:24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

**Romans 12:4** For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: **Romans 12:5** So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

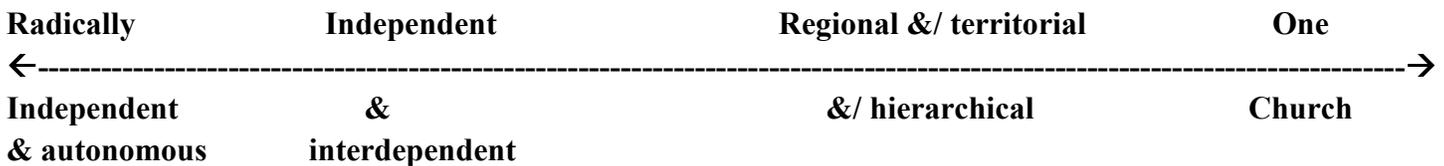
### What might we call this?

The bride of Christ	The Church
The family of God	The body of Christ
The people of God	The elect

## 6. There is no conflict between the universal church & local church!

## 7. The universal church (all believers, in all places, throughout this age) **eliminates all** “only-ism”

## 4<sup>th</sup> distinction:



1. There is unity - not necessarily union

2. Unity created by the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

3. A unity of faith & practice

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; Ephesians 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, Ephesians 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

4. A unity governed by the Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, **with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:**

1 Corinthians 4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, **as I teach every where in every church.**

1 Corinthians 7:17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. **And so ordain I in all churches.**

1 Corinthians 11:16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, **neither the churches of God.**

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, **as in all churches of the saints.** 1 Corinthians 14:34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

1 Corinthians 14:36 What? came the word of God **out from you?** or came it unto you **only?** 1 Corinthians 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 14:38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, **as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.**

1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.