

THE LOCAL CHURCH III: OBJECTIVES

There are two big questions concerning a church:

1. What is a church?

Acts 15:14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first **did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.**

1 John 5:19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

2. What is the purpose of the church?

- Why do we exist?
- What gives us the right to exist?

I. The Gathered Church: Ministering to the Body

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1. Edification / Education

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in **the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Ephesians 4:11-13 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 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:

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.

1 Peter 5:1-4 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

2. Encouragement

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine **and fellowship**, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

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.

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.

3. Ordinances

Acts 2:42 **And they continued stedfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 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.

4. Worship

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, **and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**

Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

1 Chronicles 29:14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

II. The Scattered Church: Ministering to the world

Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.

The church is not always together → are we no longer the church when we are not together?

1. Example

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

The church before “the watching world.”

Matthew 5:13-14 **Ye are the salt of the earth:** but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 **Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

2. Evangelism

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

How can we do this?

A. Testimony

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

- **Before I was saved / trusted Christ**
- **How I was saved / trusted Christ**
- **Since I was saved / trusted Christ**

2. A Plan:

1st: You need to be saved

Rom. 3:23; Isa. 64:6; Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 6:23

2nd: You can not save yourself

Titus 3:5; James 2:10; Prov. 14:12

3rd: Only Christ can save you

Acts 4:12; Jn. 14:6; 1 Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:6

4th: You must trust in Jesus Christ and Him alone

Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:13

5th: Call upon Christ for salvation

2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 4:7; Jn. 10:28-29

3. Helpful hints:

- Make it personal & practical
- Don't force anything!
- Keep Christ and Him crucified central
- Use the Bible!
- Keep after them!

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.