

Message Notes The Church.

Introduction – “Reasons NOT go to church”

This week’s question:

“What role should the church play in a believer’s life (generally) or Hope Community play in my life (specifically)?”

Focus Passage: Ephesians 3:10-11

Three Big Questions:

What’s the point of the church?

Matthew 16:18, 18:17

Ephesians 3:10-11

What is the Universal Church?

What is a local church?

What makes up a local church?

Six Elements

1. Scriptural Authority

1 Timothy 3:14-15

2. Corporate Worship

1 Corinthians 11:17-22

3. Covenanted Community

Acts 2:42-47

4. Biblical Leadership

Titus 1:5

5. Mission

John 20:21

6. Baptism and the Lord’s Supper

Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 22:19-20,

1 Corinthians 11:26

How are we to engage in church?

Gospel Application – “What’s your place in the church?”

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Matthew 16:18

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 18:17

¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Ephesians 3:10-11

¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Timothy 3:15

¹⁵if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

John 20:21

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Luke 22:19-20

¹⁹And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

1 Corinthians 11:26

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

For Further Study

Books

Church, Why Bother? by Philip Yancy – a great book if you are struggling with the purpose of church and find your involvement to be joyless and only dutiful.

9 Marks of a Healthy Church by Mark Dever – If you are looking for a book that will explain what a healthy church is meant to look like, begin with Mark Dever’s *9 Marks of a Healthy Church*.

The Deliberate Church by Mark Dever & Paul Alexander – The Deliberate Church is an excellent follow-up to *9 Marks of a Healthy Church*.

The Trellis and the Vine by Collin Marshall and Tony Payne – The simple metaphor of a trellis and a vine helps pastors and ministry leaders understand how to distinguish between ministering to people and the structure that supports this ministry.

Churches Partnering Together by Chris Bruno & Matt Dirks – This book calls on Christians and churches to learn to work together in ministry partnerships.

Articles:

What is the Church? By R.C. Sproul – an excellent place to begin your understanding of the church of Jesus Christ (<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/what-church/>)

What Is This Thing Called Church by Bernard Howard – a clear call to the purpose of the church coming from a Jewish believer in Jesus Christ. (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-is-this-thing-called-church/>)

Why Attending Church No Longer Makes Sense by Carey Nieuwhof – a call to be part of the church for those who trust Christ, but struggle with church. (<https://careynieuwhof.com/why-attending-church-no-longer-makes-sense/>)



25 Reasons People Don't Go To Church



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**HEY!
I HAVE A
QUESTION!**

Summer Sermon Series

This week's question:

“What role should the church play in a believer's life (generally) or Hope Community play in my life (specifically)?”

Focus Passage: Ephesians 3:10-11

What's the point of the church?

What's the point of the church?

What makes up a local church?

What's the point of the church?

What makes up a local church?

How are we to engage
in the local church?

What's the point of the church?



What's the point of the church?

Matthew 16:18

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MINNESOTA



mission:sixteen/18

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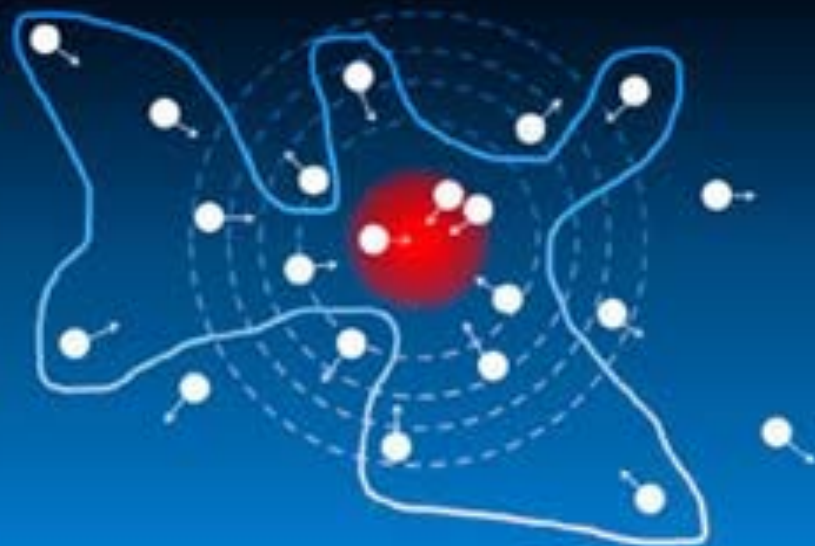
BOUNDED SET



BOUNDED SET



CENTERED SET



Biblical Metaphors of the church

The body	Col. 1:18	One body	1 Cor. 12:18–24
Body of Christ	Eph. 4:12	The Church	Eph. 3:21
Church of the first-born	Heb. 12:23	Church of God	1 Cor. 1:2
Church of the Living God	1 Tim. 3:15	Churches of Christ	Rom. 16:16
Church of the Gentiles	Rom. 16:4	City of God	Heb. 12:22
Flock	Acts 20:28	Flock of God	1 Pet. 5:2
God's building	1 Cor. 3:9	God's field	1 Cor. 3:9
Habitation of God	Eph. 2:22	Household of God	Eph. 2:19
Israel of God	Gal. 6:16	New Jerusalem	Gal. 4:24–26
Kingdom of the Son of His love	Col 1:13		
Lamb's wife	Rev. 19:7	Mt. Zion	Heb. 12:22
People of God	1 Pet. 2:10	Spiritual house	1 Pet. 2:5
Temple of God	1 Cor. 3:16		

What's the point of church?

Ephesians 3:10-11

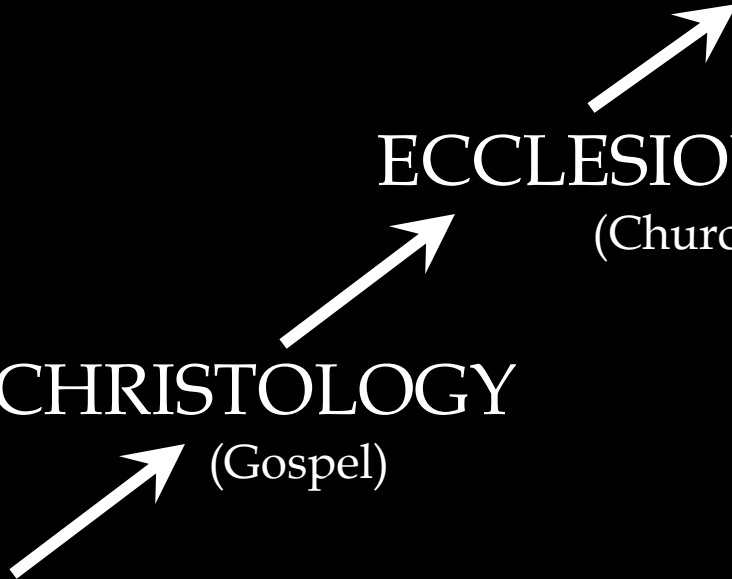
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MISSEO DEI
(God's Mission)

CHRISTOLOGY
(Gospel)

ECCLESIOLOGY
(Church)

MISSIOLOGY
(Ministry)





What is the universal church?



What is the universal church?



The universal church is the
sum total of all believers in
Jesus Christ

What is a local church?



What is a local church?



Local churches are a subset of the universal church, bounded by geography, time and local covenant to one another.

A Local Church – Svenska Missions Templet 1895



What makes up a healthy local church?



What makes up a healthy local church?



1. Scriptural Authority

1 Timothy 3:14, 15

¹⁴Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, ¹⁵if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

What makes up a healthy local church?



2. Corporate Worship

1 Corinthians 11:17-22

¹⁷In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it.

¹⁹No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval.

²⁰When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else.

What makes up a healthy local church?



2. Corporate Worship

1 Corinthians 11:17-22

One remains hungry, another gets drunk.
²²Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!

What makes up a healthy local church?



3. Covenanted Community

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common.

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What makes up a healthy local church?



3. Covenanted Community

Acts 2:42-47

⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

What makes up a healthy local church?



4. Biblical Leadership

Titus 1:5

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

What makes up a healthy local church?



5. Mission

John 20:21

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me,
I am sending you.”

What makes up a healthy local church?



6. Baptism & Lord's Supper

Matthew 28:18-20

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And surely I am with you always,
to the very end of the age."

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6. Baptism & Lord's Supper

Luke 22:19-20

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What makes up a healthy local church?



6. Baptism & Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:26

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Do I need the church? Isn't my friend group of believers (parachurch) enough?



Rise of Three Americans

Rise of Three Americans



1933

Rise of Three Americans



1933



1945

Rise of Three Americans



1933



1945



1951

Strengths and Weaknesses

STRENGTHS:

A rise in a personal relationship with Jesus

A return to the Bible alone

A rebuke to many dead, dry churches

A desire to see more and more people impacted for Jesus Christ

Allowing young people to be involved and developed as leaders

Strengths and Weaknesses

STRENGTHS:

A rise in a personal relationship with Jesus

A return to the Bible alone

A rebuke to many dead, dry churches

A desire to see more and more people impacted for Jesus Christ

Allowing young people to be involved and developed as leaders

WEAKNESSES:

No spiritual authority in the lives of people

Does not prepare them for a life of ministry

Instead of working for the betterment of the local church, many of these groups have bypassed the local church since it has so many problems.

*Is a Bible study or a group of believers
in a parachurch a Church?*



Universal – YES!!

Local – NO!!

Gospel Application

How are we to engage
in the local church?

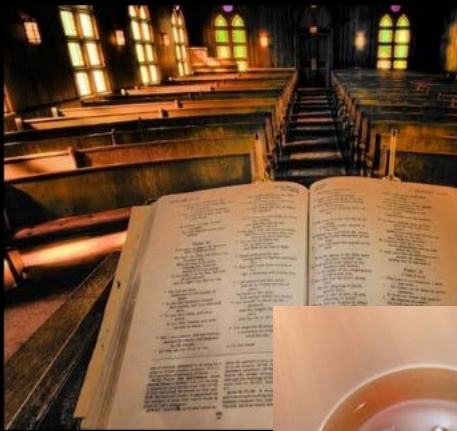
How are we to engage
in the local church?



How are we to engage in the local church?



How are we to engage in the local church?



“
Every church service is a structure of acts and words through which we receive a sacrament, or repent, or supplicate, or adore. And it enables us to do these things best– if you like, it ‘works’ best– when, through long familiarity, we don’t have to think about it. As long as you notice, and have to count, the steps, you are not yet dancing but only learning to dance. A good shoe is a shoe you don’t notice. Good reading becomes possible when you need not consciously think about eyes, or light, or print, or spelling.



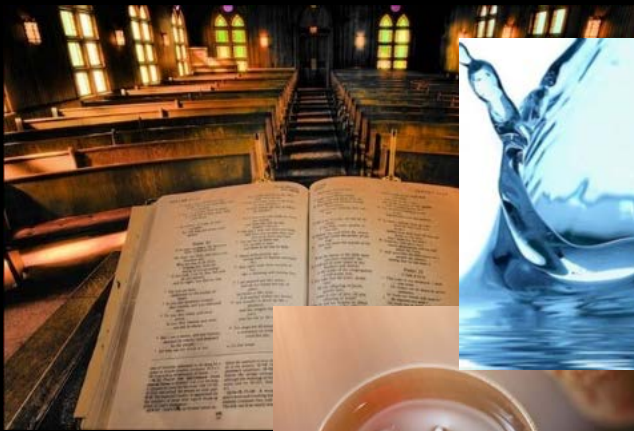


The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God. But every novelty prevents this. It fixes our attention on the service itself; and thinking about worship is a different thing from worshipping...



~ C.S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer* (San Diego: Harvest, 1964), 4-5.

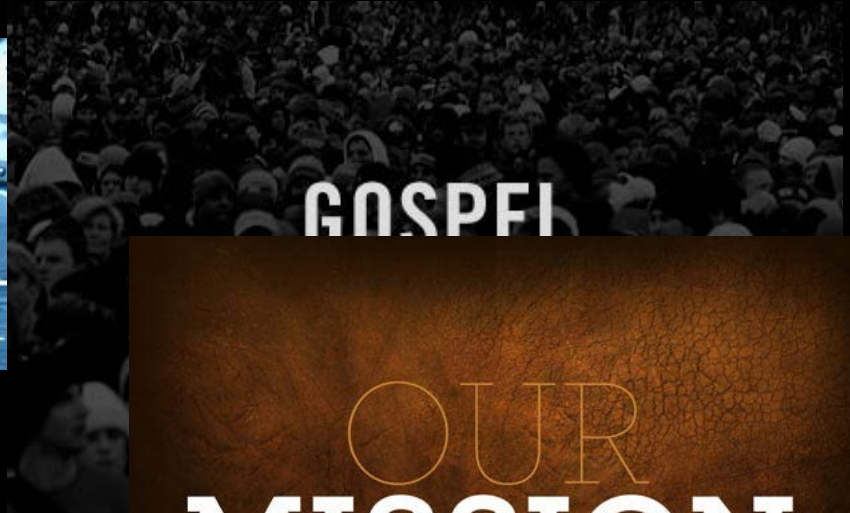
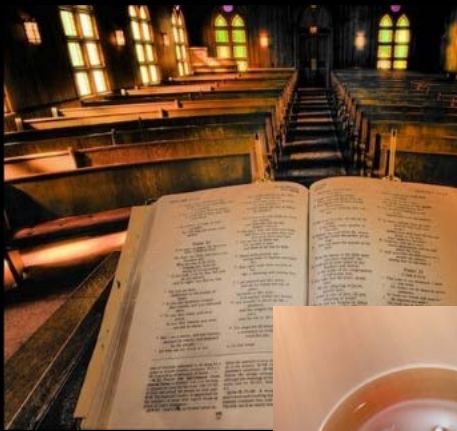
How are we to engage in the local church?



**THE CHURCH IS NOT
A MUSEUM FOR
PRISTINE SAINTS,
BUT A HOSPITAL
WARD FOR BROKEN
SINNERS.**

TIM KELLER

How are we to engage in the local church?





**Mission Nuestra Señora
de la Purísima
Concepción de Acuña
(also Mission
Concepcion) in 1716**

Hope's Story



The image features a stylized church building silhouette filled with a colorful stained glass pattern. A golden cross is positioned at the top center of the roof. The text 'THE CHURCH' is integrated into the design, with 'THE' in a smaller font above the 'C' and 'CHURCH' in large, bold letters across the main body of the church. Below the church, the phrase 'WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER...' is written in a smaller, multi-colored font.

THE
CHURCH
WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER...