

Purpose of the Local Church

Summary Statement

I believe that the purpose of the local church is to be where Christians gather together to worship the triune God through biblical teaching, observing the ordinances, and proclaiming the gospel.

Justification

...Where Christians gather...

The local church is not solely based on a building with a cross on it. The local church can be wherever Christ-believing individuals gather together¹ to build relationships and to develop themselves to be more like Christ.

...Worship the Triune God...

As the local church, we worship the triune God²: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who have existed together since the beginning of time. All are equal to one another, all are in submission to one another, and all are worthy of the same praise and adoration.

...Biblical Teaching...

Part of the purpose of the local church is to teach from the scriptures. All scripture is important³ and should be evident from the teaching in the small groups to the preaching from the pulpit. Biblical teaching from the scriptures allows us to witness God's grace in the past, to endure during hard times in the present, and to have encouragement of the hope that is to come⁴.

...Observing the Ordinances...

As a local church, part of our duty is to enjoy the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, to hope in His resurrection⁵ and to baptize those who put their trust in Christ⁶. These are not acts that affirm our salvation, but testify and celebrate the faith we have.

...Proclaiming the Gospel

Jesus commanded his apostles to make disciples and to baptize the nations⁷. Christ made reconciliation possible when he sacrificed himself on the cross and made each of us who believe in him to be his ambassadors to the world⁸. To help accomplish this command, the apostles created and planted churches around the world. Our burden is to help reconcile the sinner to their Savior locally in our community and around the world.

¹ Romans 16:5, Matthew 18:20

² 2 Corinthians 13:14, Matthew 3:16-17

³ 2 Timothy 3:16

⁴ Romans 15:4

⁵ Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:26

⁶ Matthew 3:13-17, Acts 10:47-48

⁷ Matthew 28:18-19

⁸ 2 Corinthians 5:18-19