

# The Local Congregation of the Church

A look into the New Testament Church!

(What was its purpose and function? How was a congregation organized? What is the importance of this precedent? How did they assemble and worship?)

## I. Purpose and Function of the Church

- A. I Corinthians 12:12 (To be one body)
- B. I Timothy 3:15 (To be a pillar and ground of the truth)
- C. Ephesians 3:21 (To glorify God in Christ Jesus)
- D. John 4:23-24 (To worship God in spirit and in truth)
- E. Philippians 2:14-16 (Shine as lights unto the world, holding forth the word of life)
- F. Romans 12:13 (Help the saints (fellow brothers and sisters in Christ))

## II. Organization of a Local Congregation

### A. **Members of The Body Romans 12:5-8**

- 1. Working Membership Ephesians 4:14-16
- 2. Teachers II Timothy 2:2
- 3. Chief Men Acts 15:22

### B. **Qualified Officers Acts 14:23**

- 1. Elders, Pastors, Bishops I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9
- 2. Deacons I Timothy 3:8-13

### C. **Temporary Helpers Romans 15:20**

- 1. Evangelists II Timothy 4:2-5

### D. Misc. Verses: I Peter 5:1-5, Acts 18:1,5,8,11, Acts 20:28

## III. Importance of New Testament Precedent

- A. Mat. 28:18-20 (Jesus wants us to observe the things he has commanded)
- B. Acts 2:42 (The church at its earliest stage continued steadfastly in the doctrine)
- C. Mark 7:7 (We must not worship in vain)

#### **IV. How the New Testament Church Worshipped**

##### **A. Sing**

1. I Corinthians 14:15
2. Ephesians 5:18-19
3. Colossians 3:16

##### **B. Pray**

1. Ephesians 5:20
2. I Corinthians 14:15
3. Matthew 6:7
4. I Timothy 2:1-8

##### **C. Teach**

1. I Corinthians 14:3,12,17,19,26,31,34-38

##### **D. Commune**

1. I Corinthians 11:23-29
2. Acts 20:7

##### **E. Contribution**

1. I Corinthians 16:1-2
2. II Corinthians 9:1,7,12

#### **V. Privileges and Responsibilities of The Members**

- A. Hebrews 10:25(We must not forsake the assembly)
- B. Hebrews 13:12-16(We must praise God and please him by doing good)
- C. Acts 17:11/II Timothy 2:15 (Study)
- D. Ephesians 6:1-4(Obey parents)
- E. Ephesians 5:1-11(Love, love, and love some more. Have no fellowship with darkness)

	<b>God's Design</b>	<b>Man's Corruption</b>
Purpose	To Glorify God, To praise God, To worship God	To Glorify one another, entertainment, social hour, to have fun
Organization (God ordained offices)	2 or more elders for oversight of the members, 2 or more deacons for the congregations physical needs, evangelist for establishment of congregations (temporary help), everyone else (the rest of the body)	1 elder, a senior pastor, a youth pastor, a music pastor, a pope, a priest, a rabbi, a permanent minister, 1 deacon, evangelist as permanent help, 1 preacher
Singing	Singing with our voices to praise God as a congregation	Musical instruments, choir
Praying	Pray to God through Christ our mediator from our hearts	Praying to Mary, praying to Allah, praying to saints, praying vain repetitions
Teaching	The able male members of the church do the teaching unto to assembly of the entire congregation.	1 man is paid to do all the teaching when others are able, splitting into classes to teach
Communion	On every first day of the week.	Once a month, once a year, twice a year, only on Christmas, only on Easter, on Christmas when it is not on Sunday
Contribution	On every first day of the week as God has prospered and as we purpose. We are to do it willingly	Once a month, once a year, twice a year, must give 10%