

THE LOCAL CHURCH AND GOD'S MISSION
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HOW DOES THE LOCAL CHURCH FIT WITHIN GOD'S MISSIONS?

Ecclesiology — *Missiology*

Point #1 The local church is the root of missions

Catholic Church / Local Church

Ekklesia, occurs _____ in the NT.

Jesus references the church in Matthew 16 and Matthew 18

EPHESIANS 1:20-23

The church is Christ's _____

The head of the church is _____.

EPHESIANS 4:15-16

We are the body of _____

Christ is the head of His _____

We are being built up in _____

JOHN 15:5

If you want to participate in God's Mission, you must be connected to _____

The goal of our Christian faith is to be a _____, _____ member of Christ's body.

The local church is the roots of missions as it _____ us to Christ.

"The church lies at the very center of the eternal purpose of God. It is not a divine afterthought. It is not an accident of history." ~John Stott~

"It's not that God has a mission for his Church in the world, but that God has a Church for his mission in the world." ~Christopher Wright~

Point #2 The local church is the rocket of missions

Does the Lord of the Harvest care how we enter the field of missions?

ACTS 13:1-4

Barnabas and Saul in Antioch

The _____ said,

"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul, for the work to which I have called them."

Saul and Barnabas _____ themselves to the leadership of the church in Antioch.

"The duty and honor of sending missionaries belongs to the local church."

A Pause/ A Parenthetical

There is no one _____ church.
God uses _____ sticks to make _____ lines.

A Principle

“If you wouldn’t put them in leadership in the local church, why would you put them on a plane and send them to the frontlines?”

“God sends people into the field of missions through both an internal and external call.”

“If you carefully read Acts and the Epistles, you will notice that heresy, confusion, and syncretism most often occur at the edge of gospel expansion. Therefore, that is where we need our best-equipped people. ~Andy Johnson~

The church is a _____ and _____ of the truth.

Point #3 The local church is the result of missions

The New Testament is all about *The Church’s Mission* and the _____ is at the center of that mission, as it is the body of Christ.

ACTS

Primarily about Peter and Paul and their sermons and missionary exploits as people are saved and churches are established throughout the Roman empire.

ROMANS

A foundational letter to the church in Rome on sound doctrine and sound practice.

1 & 2 CORINTHIANS

To the church of God that is in Corinth: a call to _____ in love.

GALATIANS, EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS, 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

To the churches of Galatia...

To the saints who are in Ephesus...

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons...

To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae...

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

THE PASTORAL EPISTLES 1 and 2 TIMOTHY AND TITUS

1 TIMOTHY

“ I am writing these things to you so that...you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.”

2 TIMOTHY

“...what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

TITUS

“This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you.”

REVELATION

John writes to the 7 churches in Asia, seeking to encourage them that Christ is Victor..

Questions for Discussion:

1. What relationship have you seen between the local church and missions?
2. Do you see the church as the body of Christ, God's presence here on earth?
3. Dialogue on this quote: "It's not that God has a mission for his Church in the world, but that God has a Church for his mission in the world." ~Christopher Wright
4. Do you think both an internal and external call exists in regards to missions?
5. How do you view your local church leadership in regards to your role in missions?
6. Do you think today's 'missionary culture' values the local church as strongly as Scripture seems to warrant?
7. Do you believe the local church, the body of Christ, should be at the center of missionary enterprises and endeavors?
8. Pray for our missionaries to be sound in faith, and rooted and established in a local church.