

A STRONG FOUNDATION

WHAT IS IT ABOUT CHURCH ANYWAY?

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The local church is simply God's instrument of change. There is no substitute for it and it is a very important core belief as a Christian. Jesus himself laid His life down for the church. The church is above all other forms of Christian organisations and the Bible tells us that God will use the church to accomplish His purpose.

Hebrews 10:25, Isaiah 65:8

Some Christians tear down the church and criticise it but we must remember that when we do that, we are hurting the bride of Christ. Adam failed, Israel failed, but the Church will never fail. Why is this? Because the Lord is building His church!

Psalms 127:1, Matthew 16:18-19

You see church is not a building or traditions but people who come from all walks of life, who are all sorts of ages and from all sorts of family backgrounds, cultural backgrounds, educational backgrounds and working lives.

Romans 16:5, Galatians 1:1-2

Here we see that in the province of Galatia there were many churches. They had a localized ministry and were scattered throughout the province.

A Definition of Church

The Word "Church" in the Bible actually means "Called out ones". It refers to people not buildings or traditions. Those who have been marked by God and called by Him. The Bible refers to such people as a 'Chosen Generation' and a 'Special People'.

1 Peter 2:4-10

The Church Family

Our church family or local church is first and foremost in our minds and spirit. Although we are one local church in this city we are connected to many other churches of like spirit and mind. The pastors and elders join together with other pastors and leaders across the world and that connection to others across the world is relational, walking together.

Acts 11:27-30, 1 Corinthians 12:2

The bigger picture for us is that we are all connected with a common bond and spirit. God is doing something far greater than one local church, which includes people from all nations.

Revelation 5: 9-10, Revelation 14:6-7

Local Church

Although we are connected to a larger body of believers across the globe, our own church takes priority above all other churches. Most of the New Testament books are written to local churches. The Bible refers to church around 114 times! 96 of those references are to do with a local church or spiritual home.

Acts 1:8

It is in the local church that accountability, protection and integrity are built. Also, this is where we can grow and be nurtured into the people of God. Our gifts and ministry are for use in the church, helping build the house of God. The local church is the vehicle we use to preach the gospel and establish a gateway to God.

Ephesians 3:10, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 12:18-28

The Future of The Church

As we believe that the church will never fail, the church will be a strong victorious place, where all peoples, from different background and cultures, find a place in God's Kingdom. Destinies will be unfolded; lives will be restored. And the church will stand strong in the full measure of Jesus Christ its head!

Ephesians 4:11-13, Romans 16:20, Matthew 16:18-19

The Commitment to Church

The local church is a central to God's plan for your spiritual growth.

Matthew 16:18

Church is Jesus' idea, not man's idea. When a person says they don't need the church, that is a departure from God's plan.

You are a composite of the people with whom you spend time.

Hebrews 3:13

We need the support of other believers if we are truly going to grow in Christ.

The voice of the church counteracts the deception of the weak.

Colossians 2:8

We need to be careful that we are not "kidnapped" by false ideologies and wrong teaching.

Weekly ministry in a local church builds up your spiritual muscles.

Ephesians 4, Ephesians 4:14

When we use our spiritual gifts by serving within the local church community, we become better-grounded spiritually

The Bible is very clear that through the church God will show His power and bring change. We do understand that because the church has not always been able to function at the level of its calling, some good people have established other organisations that care for people and provide teaching for Christians. But we believe that as God builds His church, these places will give way to the local church. Other Christian organisations are not the plan of God, although they do good work, it is not His plan. Not all good works are God's work.