

# Local Churches In The N.T. #6

## You and Your Local Church

Introduction:

- A. In this lesson we are going to talk about *You And Your Local Church*.

### I. Becoming A Member Of The Local Church.

- A. We are added to the Universal church by the Lord when we obey the gospel.
  - 1. The Lord adds us to His church – Acts 2:47; cf.2 Tim.2:19.
    - a. Their names are written in heaven – Heb.12:22,23.
    - b. In the book of Life – Phil.4:3; Rev.21:27.
  - 2. The Lord adds them and He can blot them out – Rev.3:5.
- B. Local church membership is determined by the local church.
  - 1. Local church membership required two things: a desire to be a member and a willingness to accept them into the local fellowship – Acts 9:26-29.
  - 2. As humans we sometimes make mistakes in this.
- C. Local church membership is expected.
  - 1. Paul's local church membership.
    - a. Paul was converted at Damascus – Acts 9:19,25.
    - b. He sought to join himself to the disciples at Jerusalem – Acts 9:26.
    - c. He was considered a member of the church in Antioch – Acts 11:26; 13:1.
    - d. Paul left us a pattern we could follow – Phil.4:9; 1 Tim.1:16.
  - 2. Every passage discussing the local church includes every member – 1 Cor.1:2; 1 Cor.12:12-27; 1 Cor.14:23; Rev.2 & 3.
    - a. Discipline must be exercised by the local church – Matt.18:15-18; 1 Cor.5:1-5.
    - b. Local church identity is expected – no individuals were addressed in Revelation 2 & 3.
    - c. Elders can only oversee the flock which is among them – Acts 20:28; 1 Pet.5:2.

### II. Local Membership Responsibilities.

- A. **Submission.**
  - 1. First to the Lord.
    - a. Jas.4:7--*"Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*
  - 2. We also need to submit to the elders.
    - a. The local church is to be ruled by elders – Acts 20:28; 14:23; Phil.1:1; Acts 15:4.
    - b. Members must submit to them – Heb.13:17; 1 Thess.5:12,13.
  - 3. We are to submit one to another – Eph.5:21; Phil.2:3.
- B. **Righteous Living.**
  - 1. This is required because I am a Christian – Tit.2:11,12; 2 Tim.2:22; 1 Pet.5:5; Jas.1:27.
  - 2. This rebounds to God's glory – Eph.3:21.
  - 3. But it also reflects upon the local church – Eph.5:27.
- C. **Co-operation.**
  - 1. The principle: Eph.4:16; Heb.6:10-12.
  - 2. Examples: Acts 2:44-46; 4:34; 11:29; 1 Cor.11:17-ff; 14:28-33; 16:2; 2 Cor.9:7.
- D. **Assembling.**
  - 1. The whole church came together – 1 Cor.11:19,20; 14:23; Acts 20:7.
  - 2. They were not to forsake it – Heb.10:25.
- E. **Giving.**
  - 1. cf. Acts 2:42,44,45; 1 Cor.16:1-3; cf.2 Cor.11:8; Phil.4:15,16.
  - 2. They gave themselves first to the Lord – 2 Cor.8:5; cf. Acts 4:32.

3. They determined to give according to their ability--cf.Acts 11:29.

4. Every one was expected to give--cf.1 Cor.16:2.

**F. Discipline.**

1. It is first an individual responsibility – Matt.18:15; Jas.5:19,20.

2. It then becomes congregational responsibility – Matt.18:16-18; 1 Cor.5:1-6; 2 Thess.3:6,14,15; Tit.3:10,11.

3. Failure to participate is dangerous – 1 Cor.5:1-6; Rev.2:16.

**G. Unity.**

1. It must be worked for – Eph.4:1-3; Phil.1:27.

2. Must determine to be united – 1 Cor.1:10.

3. Disunity is carnal – 1 Cor.3:3,4.

**H. Put It First.**

1. We are to seek the kingdom first – Matt.6:33.

**Conclusion:**

A. Are you doing your part as a faithful member.

B. If so, well and good, but if not, it is time for you to re-dedicate yourself to the Lord.