



God's Idea: The Local Church

Every successful team always huddles to a place of unity, relationships, encouragement, and plan of action to move as one impenetrable unit and fulfill its purpose. In my opinion, this is the blue print of any successful team of which, we, as believers in Christ, are not exempt.

1 Corinthians 12:12

Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

As believers in Christ, we are called the Church, which is the society of all believers in Christ in the world. The Church-body has many members or groups. The Bible conveys the idea of having many members or groups in regards to nationality, culture, language, style, calling and function. However, this should never be interpreted as having different denominational belief systems or doctrinal interpretations. The Holy Spirit only bears witness to one truth – the Gospel of God's Grace that reveals the finished work of Jesus the Christ.

Also, the meeting space is beside the point. Whether it is in a stadium of 10,000 people or a warehouse of 10 people, coming together to worship the Lord, fellowship with others, feed from the Gospel of Grace, and actively taking part by blessing others is the purpose of the local church. It is within these parameters that the local church was designed to be the fortress for believers in Christ.

Unfortunately, religion has corrupted God's idea. It has turned the local church into a dead church, where only the lust for authority, control, money, and religious externalism is promoted.

- "It is a shame when the church itself is a cemetery, where the living sleeps above the ground, as the dead do beneath." – **Thomas Fuller**

Yes, I too have been a victim of religion within the local church. And it is for this reason that many today are anti-church, especially those that have been enlightened with the Gospel of Grace by the Holy Spirit.

I am the first to call out the destructive tendencies of religion and rebuke their deceitful teachings. And I still stand firm with the belief that if a believer in Christ is being led into the teaching of the Law and its dead works in a local church, to leave that church immediately.

However, that does not mean to go solo the rest of your life and not to seek the Lord's wisdom to re-integrate a Spirit-led local church where you can fellowship, feed, grow, and participate in blessing others. Choosing the loner route will eventually cause you to be led astray from God's purpose, destiny and will for your life because everything God does is through the local church.

Hebrews 10:25

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

The opposite is also true. For those that unify with the Church-body by joining the local church allows our Father to position them so they may be blessed and find their purpose.

- “The Church is the one institution that exists for those outside it.” – **William Tyndale**

The number one complaint from believers in Christ that are under grace is that there are no grace-based churches near them. This is a problem I also encountered. My advice is, let the Lord lead you into a Spirit-led church. Just because a church pastor does not have the revelation of the Gospel of Grace doctrines of the New Testament does not mean it is not a Spirit-led church.

What is a Spirit-led church? A Spirit-led church is a local church that:

1. Believes and worships Jesus as Lord, Savior, and only Mediator between God and man.
2. Stirs up the love of God towards the people
3. Imparts hope and faith
4. Regards highly the Bible as God’s Word
5. Gives the opportunity to actively participate by serving others

Don’t dive in and commit yourself too soon, take you time to build relationships and test the spirits. Allow the Lord to lead you from within as you engage with other believers in Christ.

When you commit, never let the church-going experience become a substitute for your own personal relationship with the Lord. Attending the local church is life-changing as long as you don’t expect any person or organization to give you what God alone can give. Do know there is no perfect church, people will always fail and church won’t revolve around you. This will keep your heart in the right place.

Jeremiah 23:4

I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking.

Submitting to your local church’s leadership is to submit unto the Lord. You, as a believer in Christ enlightened to see the Gospel of Grace by revelation, will have favor to share the Gospel of Grace by word or example in your local church, only in submission to the local church’s leadership and vision. This doesn’t mean that you agree with everything. Feed on that which is from the Spirit. If you are not feeding well from the local church sermons, then complement it with T.V. or online ministries that preach the Gospel of Grace or consider our free resources.

You will find that the Lord will honor your humility and submission. He will make you whole in every area of your life as you become an active participant in the local church. Then, you will fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor lack any good thing from the Lord. You will be a living testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ – fully supplied and fulfilled for His glory.

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