

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS THE CHURCH

MATTHEW. 16:18

I. There is essential unity between Christ, the Church of Christ and the Word of Christ.

Rejection of the Church of Christ; the Word of Christ is indeed Rejection of Christ.

The Local Church is as much the Church as anything called the Church, gets to be the Church.

The Church or "Real" Church is not the universal, mystical, abstract, invisible church. The Local Church is the Church.

Four Scriptural evidences that the Local Church is the Church. Phm. 1:2; Rev. 1:20; I Cor. 1:2: Col. 4:15,16

II. It is not the Local Church IN the New Testament, but the Local Church AND the New Testament. What is the connection between scripture and the Local Church?

Three wrong concepts about the Local Church and scripture:

1. The Holy Spirit created and shaped or formed the body directly.
2. Scripture is a product of the Church.
3. Scripture answers to the authority of the Church.

The truth is that the Church is a product of the Apostolic spoken and written word. I Thess. 2:13; Eph. 2:19-20; Acts 2:42; Rom. 3:2; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Tim. 2:15

III. The Soul shaking significance of the Local Church in the Old Testament.

What we are at the Local Church level has Kingdom wide significance:

1. When we quit the Local Church we quit Christ. Act 20:28
2. When we divide the Local Church we divide Christ. I Cor. 1:10-13
3. Disciplined members are removed from Christ. Matt. 18:18

Is the Local Church in the Prophets? Lk. 24:25-27, 44-47; Acts 3:24; Acts 26:23; Heb. 12:22-23; I Pet. 1:10-12

IV. The Local Church as the "Ekklesia" is the called out.

Christians answer to a divine call. 2 Thess. 2:14; I Thess. 2:12 .

We're chosen by God not merely to be saved, but to live like Jesus. Eph. 1:4

The grace of God is in the forgiveness that requires repentance. God does not dispense cheap grace. Don't shout forgiveness and whisper repentance.