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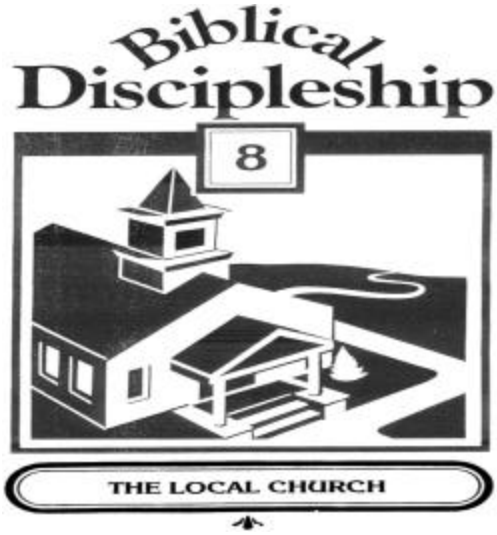
King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA



Lesson 8
The Local Church
Return page 4, 5 & 6 only

"What is the purpose of my involvement in the Local Church"

God has established three major institutions on this earth: the family, civil government, and the local church. It is the local church, which has been commissioned by God to carry out His purpose in training the believer to reach the lost and encouraging the saved. Therefore, God's plan for a Christian will always be fulfilled in and through the local church.
The purpose of this lesson is to impress upon the individual the central role, which the church should play in his everyday life. ,

1. What is the local church?

a. It **is NOT** a building. Acts 14:27

- We worship in spirit and in truth John 4:24
- Our bodies are the Temple of GOD I Corinthians 6:19

b. It **is NOT** a denomination or group of congregations

c. The term "local" church distinguishes a specific body of believers (or a congregation) serving and ministering in a particular geographical location.

- In I Corinthians 12: 27, The Bible refers to the church at Corinth (and all churches) as the "body of Christ."

- The Bible compares the church body to the human body - I Corinthians 12:12-27.
  a. Each body is composed of many "members", verse 12.
  b. Each member has a different function, verses 14-20.
  c. No one member can function alone, verse 21.
  d. Each member's contribution is important, verses 22-24.
  e. A properly functioning body operates as a single unit, verses 25-27.

d. A good definition of the local church is " A group of baptized believers (Acts 2:41), in whom Christ dwells (Revelations 1:13), under the discipline of the Word of God (Matthew 28:20); organized for evangelism (Mark. 16:15), discipleship (Matt. 28:19), worship (Philippians 3:3), fellowship (Acts 2:41, 42), education (I Corinthians. 4:17), and the administration of the two ordinances (Acts 2:41, 42).

II. What is the function of the local church?

A. After the beginning of the first church, by Jesus, during his earthly ministry with the twelve, it was then organized for the following purposes:

1. Evangelism, Acts 2:41.
2. The teaching of the Word of God, verse 42.
3. Fellowship with other believers, verse 42.
4. Prayer, verse 42.
5. The observance of the two ordinances of the church: baptism, verse 41, and the Lord's supper, verse 42.
6. To be a testimony of God's grace and power, verse 43.
7. For mutual assistance and ministry, verses 44-45.
8. To reach out into the community, verses 46- 47.
9. To Glorify and praise GOD, verse 47.
10. The spread of the Gospel worldwide Mark 16:15.

B. The single most important priority of the local church is to edify (build up, equip, teach, strengthen) the saints to effectively serve the Lord. Ephesians 4:11-16

Ill. How do I function in the church body?

A. During your life, you should grow through three broad, general stages, as outlined in Ephesians 4:12.

1. The perfecting (or spiritual maturing) of the saints - Observe and learn.

Your first priority should be to submit to the teaching of the Word of God to learn - to be the man or woman God wants you to be. Matthew 11: 28-30.

2. The work of the ministry - Participate.

In time, you will naturally grow to the point where you can begin to serve and take on some basic functions through the already established ministries of your church. Matthew 4:19, James 1:22-25

3. The edifying of the body of Christ - Lead.

As your growth continues, you should reach the point -where you can begin to minister to others in the same way you have been ministered to. 2 Timothy 2:2; I John 2:14-29 – little children, young men, and fathers

B. These three stages can be roughly compared to the stages of growth physically: childhood, youth, and adult.

C. BE PATIENT! This process takes time. Just be sure to remain faithful to God, as He perfects His work in your life. Philippians 1:5, 1 Thessalonians 5:24

IV. Basic questions

A. If GOD moves me to another location, how do I find the particular local church in which God wants me to serve?

1. Pray about it! Ask God to show you which church to associate yourself with. James 1:5
2. Observe the qualities of a particular church and compare them with the biblical requirements of a proper church.

a. Is there evidence of Soul Winning (do they have any ministries) Matthew 7: 20, Acts 2: 47

b. Do they believe and teach the Bible as the Word of God and the infallible guide for life? Titus 1: 9

c. Is the membership encouraged to read and study the Bible as much as the leadership? Acts 17: 10-12

d. Do they Minister to the needs of people? Acts 2: 44; Romans 12: 13

e. Are they involved in sending out and supporting missionaries? Acts 13: 1-3

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Lesson 8

your name _____

1. What are the three institutions God has established on earth?

A.
B.
C.

2. List some things that a church is NOT:

3. Define the term "Local Church".

4. In I Corinthians 12:14-27, The Bible teaches that in many ways the church body is similar to the_____ . List five parts of the body that are mentioned in this passage of scripture.

A.
B.
C.
D.
E.

5. List four basic similarities between the church body and the human body.

A.
B.
C.
D.

6. List some of the functional purposes of the church following its establishment by Christ during His earthly ministry.

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A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

7. What is the most important priority of a local church?

8. There is a proper order for you to follow in participating in the church body. List the three general stages connected with spiritual growth.

A.

B.

C.

9. How do these three stages of spiritual growth match up with the three stages of physical growth found in I John 2:14-29.

A.

B.

C.

10. The Christian should be _____because growing spiritually is a process which can only be properly accomplished within the established _____ of the_____ .

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11. When a Christian is looking for a local church to serve in, what are some qualities he should be checking for?

A.
B.
C.
D.
E.

Key memory verses: Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12.27, 2 Timothy 2:2 Write these verses on the back page

True/false

1. In order to really learn the Bible, you need to read it cover to cover over and over again.

2. The primary purpose of a local church is to be a social or political organization.

3. The local church is primarily for weddings, funerals and religious holidays.

4. Only the pastors of the church are charged with any responsibility of meeting people's spiritual needs.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.