

What Is The Church

- Christ's Bride: Submit – Find Place
- Christ's Body: Serve – Find Purpose
- God's Voice: Speak – Find Power

Is The Church Universal Or Local

The Church Exists Universally

The Church Functions Locally

You And I Are the Local Church

It Shapes My Understanding Of The Local Church

- The Local Church is important in God's mind and powerful in His hand.
- The Local Church holds a deep, personal, meaningful place in my heart, mind and life.

How Does The Church Function

- The Church is a Family
- The Church is a Kingdom
- The Church is an Army
- The Church is a Body

The Local Church Is A Spiritual Reality

"Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examine the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

-Acts 17:11

How Do I Engage With The Local Church?

Since The Church Is A Family, I . . .

Commit Relationally

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have a sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.”

-1 Peter 1:22

Since The Church Is A Nation, I . . .

Pledge Myself Loyally

“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve . . . But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

-Joshua 24:15

Since The Church Is An Army, I . . .

Endure Courageously

“Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs.”

-2 Timothy 2:3-4

Since The Church Is A Body, I . . .

Serve Faithfully

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”

-1 Corinthians 4:2

The Local Church Demands Exertion And Provides Fulfillment

“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts.”

-Romans 5:3-5