



THE CHURCH

SO MUCH MORE

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

The Local Church Demands Exertion And Provides Fulfillment

“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”

-Ephesians 1:18-19

Next Week

OK, but what about when. . .

. . .the world pushes back

. . .the church goes bad

. . .people leave