

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy

The Church of the Living God

**The Priority Of The Local  
Church In This Age**

---

September 5, 2021

➤ **Think how you would answer these questions:**

**Can you have a vibrant spiritual life and grow in your relationship with God apart from a local church?**

**Is it possible for you to draw closer to God while moving farther away from the church?**

➤ **Think how you would answer these questions:**

**Are there lots of alternatives to the local church for your spiritual growth?**

**Is it just "conventional church wisdom" that says you must be part of a local church?**

- Augustine: "He **cannot have God for his father** who does not have the church for his mother."
- Martin Luther: "Apart from the church, **salvation is impossible.**"

- Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church,** and **the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."**

Matthew 18:17–20 And if he refuses to hear them, **tell it to the church**. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

<sup>18</sup> “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

<sup>20</sup> For **where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.**”

Matthew 28:18–20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**” Amen.”

# I. The Priority Of The Local Church In This Age.

- 1 Timothy 3:14–15 These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly;  
<sup>15</sup> but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know **how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**

## A. The Local Church is The Household of God.

1. The local church is God's dwelling place.

- 1 Corinthians 3:16–17 Do you not know that **you are the temple of God** and that **the Spirit of God dwells in you**? <sup>17</sup> If **anyone defiles** the temple of God, **God will destroy him**. For the temple of God is holy, which **temple you are**,

# 1. The local church is God's dwelling place.

- Ephesians 2:19–22 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and **members of the household of God**,<sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,<sup>21</sup> in whom **the whole building, being fitted together**, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,<sup>22</sup> in whom **you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit,**

## A. The Local Church is The Household of God.

### 2. The local church is the Family of God.

- Romans 8:15–17 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received **the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”**<sup>16</sup> The **Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit** that we are children of God,<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

## **B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.**

- 1 Timothy 3:15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself **in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**

## B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.

1. God's kind of church is governed by the right ambitions/affections
  - 2 Corinthians 5:9–10 Therefore we **make it our aim**, whether present or absent, **to be well pleasing to Him.** <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

## B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.

1. God's kind of church is governed by the right ambitions/affections
  - Colossians 1:18 And **He is the head of the body, the church**, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in all things He may have the preeminence.**

## B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.

2. God's kind of church is devoted to His Word

- Acts 2:42 And they **continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

## B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.

2. God's kind of church is devoted to His Word

- Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that **he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict** those who contradict.

## B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.

3. God's kind of church is a family that loves one another.

- John 15:12 This is **My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.**
- Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her**

## B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.

3. God's kind of church is a family that loves one another.

- Hebrews 10:24–25 And let us consider one another in order **to stir up love and good works**,<sup>25</sup> **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching

## B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.

4. God's kind of church is building a community of disciple-makers.

- Ephesians 4:11–12 And **He Himself gave** some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and **some pastors and teachers,** <sup>12</sup> **for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,** for the edifying of the body of Christ

## B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.

4. God's kind of church is building a community of disciple-makers.

- Matthew 28:19 **Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

## B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.

4. God's kind of church is building a community of disciple-makers.

- John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but **I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit**, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you

## B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.

4. God's kind of church is building a community of disciple-makers.

- Hebrews 6:10 For **God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love** which you have shown toward His name, in that **you have ministered to the saints**, and do minister ask the Father in My name He may give you

## B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.

5. God's kind of church is groaning for heaven.

- 2 Corinthians 5:2 For in this **we groan, earnestly desiring** to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,

## B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.

5. God's kind of church is groaning for heaven.

- 2 Corinthians 5:4 For we **who are in this tent groan, being burdened**, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life

## B. The Local Church is the Church of the Living God.

5. God's kind of church is groaning for heaven.

- Romans 8:23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even **we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting** for the adoption, the redemption of our body

## C. The Local Church is The Pillar and Foundation of the Truth.

- 1 Timothy 3:15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, **which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**

## C. The Local Church is The Pillar and Foundation of the Truth.

1. We must **live by** the truth we have received.
2. We must **proclaim** the truth we have received.
3. We must **defend** the truth we have received

- 1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy **great is the mystery of godliness**: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.



[www.tbcvt.org](http://www.tbcvt.org)