

Why I Believe In the Local Church

Everything Great In My Life Is Connected To The Local Church

First Felt God – Muncie
Gave My Heart to Christ 15 – Mr. Webster
My Wife – Hillsdale Church
Married By Pastor Jeff Newton
First Disciple - Dex Lemay
Teaching – Local Church
Served In Sunday School
Bible College

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Church - “Ekklesia” C.R.A.B. - The assembly of those who have been called out of the world to follow Jesus Christ.”

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1. Jesus Loves The Local Church

Ephesians 5:25
Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

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This has several practical implications:

- 1) If He loves the church—shouldn't we love the church?
- 2) If He loves the church—shouldn't we defend the church?
- 3) If He loves the church—shouldn't we care about the church?
- 4) If He loves the church—shouldn't we seek its growth and prosperity?

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To be separated from the life of church is to separate you from the Will of God for your life.
To be faithless to the church is to be faithless to Christ.

Acts 2:40:47

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Why People Don't Love The Local Church

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1. Churches Hurt People

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2. Church is not a priority in their lives

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ 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.

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"Churchgoers are like coals of fire. When they cling together, they keep the flame aglow; when they separate, they die out."

Billy Graham

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3. Sin

John 3:20

For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

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2. Jesus Promised He Would Build His Church

Matthew 16:18

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.

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Empires

Romans Empire 476 A.D.

Mayan Empire lasted somewhere around 3,540 years. 1540 A.D.

100 years ago, the last Chinese Emperor, Alsing Puyi, was overthrown ending the Chinese Empire.

Ottoman Empire - 1922

Nazis and Hitler – 1945

Soviet Union -1991

Ephesians 5:17

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²² And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all *things* to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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The Local Church is Uniquely Gifted for the Spiritual Success of Every Believer

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3. He Is Returning For His Church

Ephesians 5:25

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

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Baptism Scriptures

Romans 6

Matthew 28:19-20

1 Peter 3:21