



10 Reasons Why You NEED the Local Church 2018!

May 6, 2018

TEXT: MATTHEW 16: 13-18...A REVIEW

- Back in 2006, I asked my church a series of questions:
 1. Why should you care about the church?
 2. Why should you connect in covenant to the local church?
 3. Why should you devote so much of your time, talent and treasure to the church?
 4. Can't you just listen to sermons online, sing a few songs at home, and call it a day?
- The answer: Because "**Kingdom**" flows through the church! Yes through family as well, but the church is made up of families, and God calls us to come together for His glory!
- This may sound extreme to some, but here is what we believe:
 1. Biblically, there is only one organization more significant in the life of a believer than the local church and one only: your **family**.
 2. Every believer is part of the "universal" or "invisible" church, but based on the New Testament, Christ never meant for that truth to birth a generation of uncovered, uncommitted Christians!
 3. Most people have NO IDEA how significant the local church is, and many pastors are afraid to tell them because of how it might sound. That's why it's so easy for them to "forsake the assembling," or be loosely connected to the Church of Christ. (Heb 10:25)

"CHURCH THOUGHTS" FROM THE TEXT:

1. Jesus is the Rock or Cornerstone of the church.
2. Jesus builds and is still building the church!
3. Since He is building it, Jesus **protects** and **advances** His church against the kingdom of darkness!
4. By extension then, Jesus anchors, gives purpose to, grows, and prospers us through the church!

10 REASONS WHY YOU NEED THE LOCAL CHURCH...AGAIN A REVIEW!

1. You need the local church because the local church is God's **plan**! (Our text, Heb 10:24-25)
2. You need the local church to come under the protection and authority of godly **elders**. (Heb 13:17)
3. You need the local church to grow as a **disciple** of Jesus. (Eph 4:11-12)
4. You need the local church to participate in the corporate worship of God and the **sacraments**. (1 Cor 11:17-34)
5. You need the local church because through it, you take part in God's eternal plan to rescue fallen **humanity**! (Matt 28:18-20)
6. You need the local church to discover and use your spiritual **gifts**. (1 Cor 12)
7. You need the local church to learn to **love** one another. (1 Jn 3:17-18)
8. You need the local church for the loving **accountability** it provides. (2 Tim 4:2)
9. You need the local church to consistently learn the grace of **giving**. (1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 9:7)
10. You need the local church to experience the encouragement of Christian **fellowship**. (1 Thes 5:11-18)

May this sort of commitment to the LORD's local church mark CRCC as we go forward together.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

APPLICATIONS FOR EDIFICATION (BUILDING UP) AND ENCOURAGEMENT

(ROM 14:19; EPH 4:9; 1 THES 5:11; JUDE 1:20)

1. Spend some time in family worship talking about what your local church means to you.
2. Have you truly built your family life around the church and the things of God? Be honest!
3. Jesus said, “the gates of hell shall not prevail against” His Church. How does that make you feel?
4. What are you actively doing to build up the local church?
5. What other adjustments can you make to be a better church member?

“Men, church life is critical in the life of the family. Center your family life around the church. Families who neglect church life have issues with loving like Christ and extending grace. Children do not learn how to honor imperfect leaders.” --Elder Scott Brown, Call to Battle Men’s Conference, 2013