

Why We Need Local Churches?

1 Cor. 12:12-26

Introduction:

- A. The “church” in God’s plan.
 - 1. The Universal church — all of God’s people. (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23).
 - 2. The Local church — God’s people banded together locally (1 Cor. 1:2; 11:18).
- B. Christians need local churches.
 - 1. Else God would not have provided them.
 - 2. Else early Christians would not have been in them (cf. Acts 9:26; Heb. 10:25).
- C. Three basic benefits of local churches:

Discussion:

I. Mutual Edification (Eph. 4:11-16).

- A. Exhortation (Heb. 10:25; 3:13; Col. 3:16).
- B. Support and comfort (1 Cor. 12:26; 1 Thess. 4:18).
- C. Correction (1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess 3:6).

II. Combined Talent.

- A. Principle taught in a number of passages (1 Cor. 12:28-31; Rom. 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11-16)
- B. Different people are fitted for different works.
- C. Church is not a “one man show” (cf. 1 Cor. 12:19; Acts 6:1-4).

III. Combined Resources.

- A. For preaching the gospel (Phil 4:10-16; 2 Cor. 11:8).
- B. For helping needy saints (Acts 11:27-30; 1 Cor. 16:1-2).

Conclusion:

- A. Not all a Christian does is through local church.
- B. But, much of his work is through the church.
 - 1. Not to have “go it alone” attitude.
 - 2. Needs to work with others in local church.