

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

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I. THE TRUTH ABOUT THE LOCAL CHURCH

1. MOST PEOPLE "GO TO" CHURCH _____

2. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE CHURCH IS _____

HOW ARE THESE TWO TRUTHS RECONCILED?

i. When The Kingdom Grows, _____ & Our Needs _____

"¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-13

ii. Our Perceived Needs Are Not Always Our _____

"¹² There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death." Proverbs 14:12

iii. Our Needs Are Often Met In Ways We Don't _____

"⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6

II. GOD'S PURPOSES FOR THE CHURCH & THE NEEDS THEY MEET

"³⁶ "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" ³⁷ Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40

"¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

1. _____

i. Proper _____

ii. _____ To Live On

iii. Love To _____

2. _____

i. Like-Minded People To _____ & _____

ii. _____, _____ & _____

iii. A Safe Place To _____

3. _____

i. _____ & _____ For Spiritual & Emotional Growth

ii. _____, _____ & _____

iii. A Safe Place To Learn How _____

4. _____

i. Spiritually Gifted People To Meet Various _____, _____, &

ii. People To _____

iii. People To _____

5. _____

i. Outreach _____ & _____

ii. A Place To _____

iii. People For _____ Outreach Efforts

iv. A Place Where The Lost Can _____

KEY: THESE PURPOSES ARE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH _____

“²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25

“⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.” Acts 2:43-47

III. HOW CAN I MAXIMIZE WHAT I GET FROM MY CHURCH?

1. SINCE I AM _____, ADOPT _____

“⁴ You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. ⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What’s more, you are his holy priests.” 1 Peter 2:4-5

“¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” Ephesians 4:16

2. _____ EACH PURPOSE REGULARLY

*“²⁷ All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.”
1 Corinthians 12:27*

3. BE _____, & FOCUS MORE ON _____ THAN _____

“³⁵ You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35

“²⁸ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28

4. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF _____

“¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.” Ephesians 5:16-17

“²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25

“²⁶ Well, my brothers and sisters, let’s summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you.” 1 Corinthians 14:26

5. WHEN I FEEL LIKE A NEED ISN’T BEING MET, LOOK FOR WAYS TO _____

_____ MORE COMPLETELY

*“³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”
Matthew 6:33*

6. _____ I’M PLANTED

See examples in Acts & the Epistles of Paul

7. BE AWARE THAT WHEN I FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE, CHALLENGED, IRRITATED, OR

UNEASY, GOD IS _____

“² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.” James 1:2-4

“¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.” Colossians 3:12-17