

THE CHURCH

- In the mind of God from eternity
 - Eph 3:10-11
 - Eph 3:21
- “ekklesia”
 - from ek, “out of,” and klesis, “a calling”
- A gathering or assembly of called ones
 - I Pet 2:4, 9-10
 - I Cor 1:2, 9

THE CHURCH

- Universal sense
 - Mt 16:18
 - Eph 1:22-23
 - Eph 2:19-21
- Local sense
 - I Cor 1:2
 - Ax 11:22
 - Phil 1:1
 - Ax 20:17

THE CHURCH IN A LOCAL SENSE

- Assembled
 - I Cor 11-14
 - I Cor 16:1-2
 - Ax 11:26
 - Ax 14:27
- Clearly defined membership
 - Ax 2:41-42
 - 2 Jn 9-11
 - 2 Cor 11:4
 - I Cor 5

THE CHURCH IN A LOCAL SENSE

- Had its own collected, stored funds
 - I Cor 16:1-2
- Had local oversight
 - Ax 14:23

THE CHURCH - HER MISSION

- Body subject to its Head
 - Eph 5:22-24
- Important
 - Warnings about departures from the faith
 - Ax 29:29-30
 - 2 Thes 2:15
 - Observe plurality of works in religious world
 - Witness current apostasies
- What is the mission or work of the church (local)?

TEACHING & PREACHING

- First, consider the apostolic mission and its impact
 - Mt 28:19
 - Mk 16:15
 - Ax 1:8
 - Ax 2:36-42
 - Ax 6:2
 - Ax 8:4

TEACHING & PREACHING

- Churches sent men to preach and to teach
 - Ax 11:22-24
 - Ax 13:1-3
- Churches had fellowship, sharing, in the preaching of the gospel by supporting men who preached
 - Phil 4:15-16; 1:5
 - 2 Cor 11:8
- Supporting such men is no accident
 - I Cor 9:9-11; 14

TEACHING & PREACHING

- To the lost
 - Rom 10:14-15
 - Ax 13:2-3
 - Ax 14:27
- To the saved
 - Rom 1:15
 - Ax 14:21-22

PATTERN?

- Yes!
- I Cor 4:17
- I Cor 7:17
- I Cor 11:34
- Tit 1:5
- 2 Tim 1:13

EDIFY ITSELF

- Edify = build up spiritually
- Ax 2:42
- Eph 4:11-16
- Apostles & Prophets
 - Foundation – Eph 2:19-22
- Evangelists, pastors (elders), teachers

EDIFY ITSELF

- Equipping for the work of ministry
 - Rom 12:4-8
- Edifying of the body of Christ
- The word of God!

EDIFYING WHEN ASSEMBLED

- I Cor 11:17
- Heb 10:24-25
- I Cor 14:26
- Ax 2:42
- Ax 20:7

ASSEMBLED TO DO WHAT?

- Eat and drink the Lord's supper
 - I Cor 11:27
- I Cor 14
 - Hear and learn the word of God
 - Sing
 - Pray
- Giving
 - I Cor 16:1-2

RELIEVE NEEDY SAINTS

- Ax 2:44-45
 - Liberal sharing
- Ax 4:32-35
 - Liberal giving
 - Distributed according to need
 - Under apostles' authority
- Ax 6:1-6
 - Apostles had greater work

RELIEVE NEEDY SAINTS

- Ax 11:27-30
 - Liberal sharing
 - For a need
 - Sent from one church to other churches in Judea
- I Cor 6:1-4
 - Every first day of the week
 - A collection to be kept until Paul came

RELIEVE NEEDY SAINTS

- The church's work of relieving needy saints was directed by the apostles
- Saints were the object of this work
- The work was invoked due to need
- The work was a fruit of being a Christian
- The work was not in order to produce Christians

DISCIPLINE THE DISORDERLY

- I Cor 5:1-7
 - In order to save the erring
 - In order to keep the church pure
- I Tim 5:19-20
 - Will cause others to fear

WHAT IS NOT A WORK OF THE CHURCH?

- The list is as endless as the silence of the Scriptures
- Remember, we are talking about the church's work, not the individual's work

COMMON WORKS OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS TODAY

- Where is the authority?



THE LOCAL CHURCH SHOULD BE:

- Preaching to and teaching the lost
- Preaching to and teaching the saved
- Equipping itself for the work of ministry, edifying itself
- Relieving needy saints
- Disciplining the disorderly