

# The Work Of The Church

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## Last week

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- the church – the called out
- The word is used in universal sense and local sense



# Last week

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- Identifying characteristics of the local church
  - Clearly defined membership
  - Its own local oversight
  - Collects in a common fund for apostolically-directed purposes
  - Assembles together in one place
- Considering in these lessons the work of the local church, not the work of the individual

## Last week

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- Preaching and teaching the word of God is a work of the church
  - 1 Timothy 3:15
  - Sending men to preach and to teach
  - Fellowship in supporting men to preach and to teach
  - To both the lost and the saved
  - Going and/or staying



## This week

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- Look at two other works of the church in a locality

## The work of the church

### 2. Edifying itself

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- Edify – literally “build a house”
- To build up spiritually
- In the beginning
  - Acts 2:42
- By God’s design
  - Ephesians 4:11-16



# The work of the church

## 2. Edifying itself

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- Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers for...
  - Equipping of the saints
    - For, unto
      - The work of ministry
        - Romans 12:4-8
      - Edifying of the body of Christ
        - Verse 16
        - Acts 20:28; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Timothy 1:3

## The work of the church

### 2. Edifying itself

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- The church edifies itself when...
  - It assembles
    - 1 Corinthians 14:26
    - Hebrews 10:24-25
    - 1 Corinthians 11:17



## The work of the church

### 2. Edifying itself

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- The church edifies itself when it assembles to...
  - Eat the Lord's supper – 1 Corinthians 11:20, 23-26; Acts 20:7
  - Teach and proclaim the word of God, sing and pray – 1 Corinthians 14; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19
  - Make up a collection – 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

## The work of the church

### 2. Edifying itself

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- The church edifies itself when it...
  - Conducts a special series of meetings
  - Conducts Bible classes/studies
- 1 Timothy 3:15
- Emphasis upon the word of God to increase knowledge, grow in faith, spur on to greater love and service



## The work of the church

### 3. Relieving its own needy

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- 1 Timothy 5:19-26
  - See the distinction between individual Christian and the church
- Examples
  - Acts 2:44-45
  - Acts 4:32-35
  - Acts 6:1-6
  - Acts 11:27-30
  - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

The work of the church

### 3. Relieving its own need

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- The work was under apostolic direction
- 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



## The local church is to do this work:

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1. Preaching and teaching the word of God
2. Edifying itself
3. Relieving its own needy

The things spoken and then written for us, the Scriptures, constitute an order or pattern taught in all churches

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- 1 Corinthians 4:17
- 1 Corinthians 7:17
- 1 Corinthians 11:34
- Titus 1:5
- 2 Timothy 1:13
- 2 Thessalonians 2:15



The things spoken and then written for us, the Scriptures, constitute an order or pattern taught in all churches

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- But throughout history, men have strayed from it
- Acts 20:29-30
- Men have corrupted...
  - The church's organization
  - The church's worship
  - The church's work

## What is *not* the work of the church?

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- The list is as endless as the silence of the Scriptures
- The list is as endless as everything outside the authority of Christ



What is *not* the work of the church?  
Common works of “churches” of today:

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Where in the New Testament is the statement, the command, the apostolically-approved example, the necessary inference for these works?

## The local church is to do this work:

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1. Preaching and teaching the word of God
2. Edifying itself
3. Relieving its own needy

We can neither abdicate these works assigned to the church nor can we add to them