

Ekklesia Definition

- ❖ a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly
 - an assembly of the people convened at the public place of the council for the purpose of deliberating
 - the assembly of the Israelites
 - any gathering or throng of men assembled by chance, tumultuously
 - in a Christian sense
 - an assembly of Christians gathered for worship in a religious meeting
 - a company of Christian, or of those who, hoping for eternal salvation through Jesus Christ, observe their own religious rites, hold their own religious meetings, and manage their own affairs, according to regulations prescribed for the body for order's sake
 - those who anywhere, in a city, village, constitute such a company and are united into one body
 - the whole body of Christians scattered throughout the earth
 - the assembly of faithful Christians already dead and received into heaven

The universal/invisible church is the name given to the church worldwide.

- ❖ Matthew 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **my church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 10:32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to **the church of God**,
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 12:28 And God has appointed in **the church** first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.
- ❖ Ephesians 1:22-23 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to **the church**, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
- ❖ Ephesians 3:10, 21 so that through **the church** the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places..... to him be glory in **the church** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
- ❖ Ephesians 5:23-25, 27, 29, 32 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of **the church**, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as **the church** submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved **the church** and gave himself up for her,..... so that he might present **the church** to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish..... For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does **the church**,..... This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and **the church**.
- ❖ Colossians 1:18, 24 And he is the head of the body, **the church**. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent..... Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, **the church**,

The Universal & Local Church

- ❖ 1 Timothy 3:15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is **the church** of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

Important Note: The Universal/Invisible Church is made up of only believers. There are no false believers in the Universal/Invisible Church. The Universal/Invisible Church also connects all saints together past, present and future (at the appointed time of salvation).

A local church is normally defined as a local assembly of all who profess faith and allegiance to Christ.

- ❖ Matthew 18:17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to **the church**. And if he refuses to listen even to **the church**, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
- ❖ Acts 5:11 And great fear came upon the **whole church** and upon all who heard of these things.
- ❖ Acts 8:1, 3 And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against **the church** in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles..... But Saul was ravaging **the church**, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.
- ❖ Acts 9:31 So **the church** throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.
- ❖ Acts 14:23 And when they had appointed elders for them in **every church**, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
- ❖ Acts 15:3-4, 41 So, being sent on their way by **the church**, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by **the church** and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them..... And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening **the churches**.
- ❖ Acts 15:22 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with **the whole church**, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers,
- ❖ Acts 16:5 So **the churches** were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.
- ❖ Acts 18:22 When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted **the church**, and then went down to Antioch.
- ❖ Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for **the church** of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
- ❖ Romans 16:1, 4-5, 16 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of **the church** at Cenchreae,... who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all **the churches** of the Gentiles give thanks as well. Greet also **the church** in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia..... Greet one another with a holy kiss. All **the churches** of Christ greet you
- ❖ Romans 16:23 Gaius, who is host to me and to **the whole church**, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you.
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 1:2 To **the church** of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 4:17 That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere **in every church**.
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 5:12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside **the church** whom you are to judge?
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 6:4 So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing **in the church**?
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 7:17 Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in **all the churches**.
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 11:16, 18, 22 If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do **the churches** of God..... For, in the first place, when you come together **as a church**, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part,..... What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise **the church** of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 14:4-5 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up **the church**. Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that **the church** may be built up. (See Also 1 Corinthians 14:12, 19, 23, 28, 33-35)
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted **the church** of God.
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 16:1, 19 Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed **the churches** of Galatia, so you also are to do..... **The churches** of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To **the church** of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 8:1, 18-19, 23-24 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among **the churches** of Macedonia,..... With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all **the churches** for his preaching of the gospel. And not only that, but he has been appointed by **the churches** to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will..... As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of **the churches**, the glory of Christ. So give proof before **the churches** of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 11:8, 28 I robbed **other churches** by accepting support from them in order to serve you..... And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all **the churches**.
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 12:13 For in what were you less favored than the rest of **the churches**, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!
- ❖ Galatians 1:2, 13, 22 and all the brothers who are with me, To **the churches** of Galatia:..... For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted **the church** of God violently and tried to destroy it..... And I was still unknown in person to **the churches** of Judea that are in Christ.
- ❖ Philippians 3:6 as to zeal, a persecutor of **the church**; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

- ❖ Philippians 4:15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.
- ❖ Colossians 4:15-16 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 2:14 For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews,
- ❖ 2 Thessalonians 1:1, 4 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:..... Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.
- ❖ 1 Timothy 3:5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?
- ❖ 1 Timothy 5:16 If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.
- ❖ Philemon 1:2 and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:
- ❖ James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.
- ❖ 3 John 1:5-6, 9-10 Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God..... I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church
- ❖ Revelation 1:4, 11, 20 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,..... saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."..... As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.
- ❖ Revelation 2;7-8, 11-12 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.' "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life..... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.' "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: 'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

- ❖ Revelation 17-18, 23, 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to **the churches**. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.' "And to the angel of **the church** in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze..... and I will strike her children dead. And all **the churches** will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works..... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to **the churches**.'
- ❖ Revelation 3:6-7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to **the churches**.' "And to the angel of **the church** in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.
- ❖ Revelation 13-14, 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to **the churches**.' "And to the angel of **the church** in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation..... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to **the churches**.'"
- ❖ Revelation 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for **the churches**. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

Important Note: The Visible Church is made up of many local churches who are unified in Christ, not every local church may agree on every theological teachings such as; Eschatology, Mode of Baptism, etc. but every true biblical local church will be united in Christ and affirm the essentials of the faith such as; Doctrine of God(Trinity, Deity of Christ, etc.), The Gospel. Every believer in Christ is apart of the Universal Church but not every member of the Local Church is a member of the Universal Church. Within the Local Church you will have false converts along with true believers, serving side by side, sometimes it is obvious and sometimes its not, consider the many well known and seemingly faithful pastors who have falling and walked away from the faith.

Means of Grace

- ❖ Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
 - The Apostles Teaching
 - The Fellowship
 - The Breaking of bread
 - The Prayers

Roles within the local church

- ❖ Ephesians 4:11-14 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be

children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

➤ Apostles

• The Twelve

- ✓ Mark 3:16-19 He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.
- ✓ Luke 6:13-16 And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.
- ✓ Matthew 10:2-3 The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

- 1) Peter
- 2) Andrew
- 3) James
- 4) John
- 5) Philip
- 6) Bartholomew
- 7) Thomas
- 8) Matthew
- 9) James son of Alphaeus
- 10) Thaddaeus
- 11) Simon the Zealot
- 12) Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus

- ✓ Mark 3:14 And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach
- ✓ Mark 4:10 And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables.

- ✓ Mark 6:7 And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.
 - ✓ Mark 9:35 And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."
 - ✓ Mark 14:17 And when it was evening, he came with the twelve.
 - ✓ Luke 6:13 And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:
 - ✓ Luke 9:1 And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,
 - ✓ Luke 22:14 And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him.
 - ✓ Mark 14:10 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them.
 - ✓ Mark 14:20 He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me.
 - ✓ John 6:71 He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.
- Replacement of Judas
 - ✓ Acts 1:21-26 So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.
- 13) Matthias
- ✓ Acts 6:2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.
- Apostle to the Gentiles
 - ✓ Acts 9:15-16 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

14) Paul

- ✓ Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,
- ✓ Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—
- ✓ Galatians 2:8 (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles),
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 9:1-2 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

➤ Prophets

- One who announces or pours forth the declarations of God
- There are many prophets in the Bible mentioned in the OT and some as well in the NT. Here are just a few names of prophets of the Lord.

- ✓ Abraham
- ✓ Daniel
- ✓ David
- ✓ Elijah
- ✓ Elisha
- ✓ Ezekiel
- ✓ Moses
- ✓ John the Baptist
- ✓ Agabus
- ✓ Jesus (who is our Prophet, Priest and King)

➤ Evangelists

- A bringer of good news, a missionary, bearer of good tidings.
- Example in scripture, Philip
 - ✓ Acts 8:4-5 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.

- ✓ Acts 8:40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.
- ✓ Acts 21:8 On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

➤ Shepherds & Teachers (Elders)

- 1 Timothy 3:1-7 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.
- Titus 1:6-9 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.
- Acts 6:4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

- ❖ Acts 6:1-3 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

➤ Deacons

- 1 Timothy 3:8-13 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good

standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

➤ Laity/Members

- Love the Lord God and love your neighbor as yourself
 - ✓ Matthew 22:36-40 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

- Do not forsake being a part of a local church
 - ✓ Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- Submit to your elders
 - ✓ Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.
 - ✓ 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves
 - ✓ 1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

- Be a witness for Christ
 - ✓ Mark 16:15 And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.
 - ✓ 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are

ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- Rightly handling the Word of God
 - ✓ 2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
- Restore a brother/Guard yourself/Bear one another's burdens
 - ✓ Galatians 6:1-2 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
- Stand up against injustice
 - ✓ Proverbs 31:8-9 Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.
- Submit to the governing authorities so long as they are not causing you to sin against God
 - ✓ Romans 13:1-7 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.
 - ✓ Titus 3:1-2 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

The Universal & Local Church

My hearts desire is for anyone who has taken the time to read through this document, is for you, who are members of the universal church to walk away with a deeper appreciation and love for Christ's Church. While at the same time challenge those who profess to be believers in Christ to understand the importance and see their need for membership in a local church.

Every true believer in Christ is a part of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27), and every true believer is given gifts, not for themselves but for the members of the body of Christ in local churches (Ephesians 4:12; 1 Corinthians 14:3-5, 12, 17, 26).

Use your gifts and talents in which the Spirit has given you for the building up of the body of Christ as one united in Christ in the universal body of Christ serving others as a member of a local church body.