

Lesson 1 | Introduction – What Makes up a Local Body?

Scriptures to Consider:

Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:37-47; 8:1-3; 9:26-28; 1Cor. 14; Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 4:1-16; 5:22-33; Col. 1:18, 24; 1Tim. 3:1-15; 2Tim. 4:5; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 12:22-24; 1Pet. 5:1-5; 1Cor. 12

I. Class Goals and Expectations

- a. The purpose and goals of this class:
 - i. To become more united.
 - ii. To understand the make-up of the local body.
 - iii. To strive to adhere to God's structure for the local body and to improve each of our given roles.
- b. Expectations
 - i. For all participants (including the teacher) to be prepared for each class.
 - ii. Weekly handouts – Typically an outline of the selected topic will be handed out 1 week before that class, along with questions. We'll go over the questions and may/may not go over the outline, depending on the topic.
 - iii. To **not** cause confusion. If a question or anything else is unclear, please bring it to my attention so I can clarify.
 - iv. To have participation – I intend many of the classes to be a discussion as we go over the selected topic and questions.

II. Definitions & Terms

- a. "Church" – (Grk. "EKKLESIA") – called out; an assembly; Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both; a company of Christians; etc.
- b. "Universal" church – the whole assembly of people who are saved, both living and dead.
- c. "Local" church – A company of saved people in a geographical area who work and worship together as a local congregation.

III. General Make-up of the Local Church

- a. The Head – Christ
- b. Members
- c. Evangelist
- d. Elders
- e. Deacons

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Questions:

1. How does the bible describe the “church”?
2. Provide a scripture that uses “church” in the “universal” sense. Provide a scripture that uses “church” in the “local” sense.
3. How does one get added to the “universal” church? How does one get added to the “local” church?
4. What is the relationship between Christ and the church? Explain.
5. Why do we call ourselves the “church of Christ”? Where does that name come from?
6. Provide a scripture which teaches there are “members” of a local church. How is this likened to a “body”? (ref. 1Cor. 12)

