



The Biblical Priorities of Life

“All I know is you need love
And I've got a family
All I know is you're all alone
So why not come with me?
Come and go with me
To my Father's house
It's a big, big house”

—Audio Adrenaline, “Big House”

Part 7 — “Members One of Another” — 9/19/21

Introduction

- An understanding of the biblical priorities of life enables us to rightly order our relationships so that we might serve God and others in accordance with His good purposes. Christians are entrusted with certain vocations by God, some of which are intrinsic (*man, woman, child*) and others which may arise throughout the course of our lives (*husband, wife, mother, father*). It is only in coming to Christ by faith (the vocation of being a *Christian*) that all other callings find their proper place in our lives.

Key Point: A proper understanding of ourselves individually as Christians means that we identify ourselves with the _____ of Jesus Christ in both its universal and local forms!

The Church

Matt. 16:16b, 18-19—¹⁶... “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”...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. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Observations:

1. The Church is the fulfillment of the _____ that Jesus made to the disciples.
“church”—ἐκκλησία (*ekklesia*)—A regularly summoned body; an assembly, gathering, community, or congregation.
⇒ Those who comprise the *assembly* are those who have been “called” (*kaleo*) “out” (*ek*). The church should therefore be understood as those who have been called out from the world by God through the proclamation of the gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:4).
2. The building of the Church will be the _____ of Jesus and will be centered upon His _____.
3. Jesus will continue to work in and through the Church and will ultimately prevail against His _____.
4. Jesus’ authority to lead the Church will be _____ to leaders of His own choosing.

Key Point: No believer’s relationship with the Lord will be as _____ as God intends without proper involvement in the lives of fellow believers, particularly in a local church.

The Believer’s Relationship to the Church

1. _____

Rom. 12:5—⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

* **Every believer IS a members of the _____ church!** (The _____ Church)

1 Cor. 12:13—For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

* **Every believer SHOULD BE a member of a _____ church!** (The _____ Church)

Heb. 10:24-25—²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not 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.

⇒ Believers who gather will receive *encouragement* while those who forsake gathering will be deprived of it. Believers should gather regularly with those who are of like mind and who are led by appointed leaders (elders & deacons) who are biblically qualified (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).

Key Point: It is within the local church that we _____ live out the truths that we claim to believe and which, by faith, make us truly members of the universal church.

2. _____

* **Every believer is to show _____ and _____ towards their fellow believers within the church!**

Rom. 12:10— Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

1 Thess. 5:12-13—¹²We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

Key Point: Our attitude towards our fellow believers is often indicative of our _____ towards God & His Word.

3. Responsibilities (Privileges)

- * **Every believer is to support the local church personally!**

1 Pet. 4:10—As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...

James 5:16b—...confess your sins to one another and pray for one another...

1 Tim. 5:19-20—¹⁹ Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁰ As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

- * **Every believer is to support the local church financially!**

2 Cor. 9:6-7—⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

- * **Every believer is to submit to the leadership of the local church!**

Heb. 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.

Key Point: An understanding of our position within the universal church of Jesus Christ should cause us to recognize our obligations to our fellow believers within the local church.

The Benefits of Rightly Relating to the Local Church

- (1) **We will grow spiritually!**

Col. 2:6-7—⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

- (2) **We will receive guidance!**

1 Pet. 5:2-3—² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

- (3) **We will receive protection!**

2 Tim. 4:2-3a—² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching...

The Causes of Wrongly Relating to the Local Church

- (1) **Pride**

- (2) **Unbelief**

- (3) **A Wounded Spirit**

Potential Consequences of Wrongly Relating to the Church

- (1) **Hindered Spiritual Growth** →

- (2) **Lack of Wisdom** →

- (3) **Poor Decisions** →

- (4) **Openness to Deception** →

- (5) **Wasted Time & Energy** →

- (6) **Long-term Damage to Children** →

Concluding Thought

- **The local church is an imperfect place filled with imperfect people who worship a perfect Savior!**

1 Pet. 3:8-12—⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰ For "WHOEVER DESIRES TO LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, LET HIM KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT; ¹¹ LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. ¹² FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE ON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN TO THEIR PRAYER. BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."



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Key Point: A proper understanding of ourselves individually as Christians means that we identify ourselves with the **Church of Jesus Christ in both its universal and local forms!**

The Church

Matt. 16:16b, 18-19—¹⁶... “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”...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. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Observations:

1. The Church is the fulfillment of the **promise** that Jesus made to the disciples.
“church”—ἐκκλησία (*ekklēsia*)—A regularly summoned body; an assembly, gathering, community, or congregation.
⇒ Those who comprise the *assembly* are those who have been “called” (*kaleo*) “out” (*ek*). The church should therefore be understood as those who have been called out from the world by God through the proclamation of the gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:4).
2. The building of the church will be the **work** of Jesus and will be centered upon His **person**.
3. Jesus will continue to work in and through the Church and will ultimately prevail against His **enemies**.
4. Jesus’ authority to lead the Church will be **delegated** to leaders of His own choosing.

Key Point: No believer’s relationship with the Lord will be as **healthy** as God intends without proper involvement in the lives of fellow believers, particularly in a local church.

The Believer’s Relationship to the Church

1. Membership

Rom. 12:5—⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

- * **Every believer IS a members of the universal church!** (The **Invisible** Church)
1 Cor. 12:13—For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

- * **Every believer SHOULD BE a member of a local church!** (The **Visible** Church)
Heb. 10:24-25—²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ 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.

⇒ Believers who gather will receive *encouragement* while those who forsake gathering will be deprived of it. Believers should gather regularly with those who are of like mind and who are led by appointed leaders (elders & deacons) who are biblically qualified (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).

Key Point: It is within the local church that we **practically** live out the truths that we claim to believe and which, by faith, make us truly members of the universal church.

2. Attitude

- * **Every believer is to show honor and love towards their fellow believers within the church!**

Rom. 12:10— Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

1 Thess. 5:12-13—¹² We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

Key Point: Our attitude towards our fellow believers is often indicative of our **heart** towards God & His Word.

3. _____ (_____)

* **Every believer is to support the local church _____!**

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James 5:16b—...confess your sins to one another and pray for one another...

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The Causes of Wrongly Relating to the Local Church

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) A _____

Potential Consequences of Wrongly Relating to the Church

(1) _____ **Spiritual Growth** →

(2) **Lack of** _____ →

(3) **Poor** _____ →

(4) **Openness to** _____ →

(5) _____ **Time & Energy** →

(6) **Long-term** _____ **to Children** →

Concluding Thought

• **The local church is an imperfect _____ filled with imperfect _____ who worship a perfect _____!**

1 Pet. 3:8-12—⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰ For "WHOEVER DESIRES TO LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, LET HIM KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT; ¹¹ LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. ¹² FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE ON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN TO THEIR PRAYER. BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."