

— THE IMPORTANCE OF —

THE LOCAL CHURCH



OPENING QUESTION

Will AI replace Abe?

OUTLINE

Why You Need the Local Church

01

You need the leaders of your local church

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13a

02

You need the reminders from your local church

1 Thessalonians 5:14

03

You need the accountability of your local church

Galatians 6:1

1 Thessalonians 5:12–14

[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. [14] And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

PART ONE

The Leaders

You need the leaders of your local church. — 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13a

1 Thessalonians 5:12–14

[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. [14] And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

Titus 1:5

[5] This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and **appoint elders in every town** as I directed you—

Acts 14:23

[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.

Numbers 11:16

[16] Then the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you.

1 Thessalonians 5:12–14

[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. [14] And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

1 Timothy 5:17

[17] Let the **elders** who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

Hebrews 13:17

[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.

MAIN POINT

We should want the local church's elders to keep watch over our souls.

1 Peter 5:5

[5] Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with **humility** toward one another, for “God **opposes the proud** but gives grace to the humble.” (ESV)

1 Thessalonians 5:12–14

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1 Thessalonians 5:12–14

[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. [14] And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

2 Timothy 3:16

[16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”**

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MAIN POINT
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The Elders' job is to lead the church into understanding, and living in obedience to, God's Word.

1 Thessalonians 5:12–14

[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. [14] And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

MAIN POINT

You need the leaders of your local church who are responsible to God for shepherding your soul.

PART TWO

The Reminders

You need the reminders from your local church. – 1 Thessalonians 5:14

1 Thessalonians 5:12–14

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1 Timothy 4:6

[6] If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

Colossians 3:16

[16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

MAIN POINT

We are to have the Word of God dwell in us in such a way that we can admonish, encourage and help each other with reminders of the truths of God's Word.

MAIN POINT

We need reminders about what God's Word says to us from our local church.

PART THREE

The Accountability

You need the accountability of your local church. — Galatians 6:1

Galatians 6:1

[1] 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.

Matthew 18:15–17

[15] “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. [16] But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. [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.

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[15] “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, **you have gained your brother.** [16] But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. [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.

MAIN POINT

We go and call out our fellow believer's sin against us to restore fellowship with them

Matthew 18:15–17

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MAIN POINT

**In order to do biblical accountability for sin,
you need the local church.**

Hebrews 12:14–15

[14] Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. [15] See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

Matthew 18:15–17

[15] “If your brother sins against you, **go** and **tell him** his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, **you have gained your brother.** [16] But if he does not listen, **take one or two others** along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. [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.**

MAIN POINT

We need to be daily walking in the Spirit, which will include conviction of sin and repentance, in order to have assurance of salvation.

1 Corinthians 5:4–5

[4] When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, [5] you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, **so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.**

Galatians 6:1

[1] 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.

Matthew 7:3-5

[3] Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? [4] Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? [5] You hypocrite, first **take the log out of your own eye, and then** you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

MAIN POINT

**We need the local church to hold us
accountable for our sin.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 01** How does knowing that your church's leaders will give an account to God for how they shepherded your soul help you to trust them more?
- 02** How have you seen the Word at work through another believer in your life — teaching, encouraging, or helping you or others?
- 03** Have you seen accountability from a brother or sister in Christ help someone put sin to death? If not, how might you begin?

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Hebrews 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.

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