

- Worship
- Fellowship
- Discipline

Q: What kind of preaching and teaching do you need from a church?

Q: Why is it important for you to be part of a church that exercises discipline?

Q: Is there anything else we should also be looking for in a local church?

## Loving a Local Church

David Murray on what you should do in a church:

- Support (with your prayers, your presence – ideally twice on a Sunday, your time, your talents, and your money).
- Serve (whatever you can find to do, do it with all your might).
- Submit.
- Stay.

Q: How do we submit to a local church?

Q: What are some good reasons to leave a local church?

Q: What are some bad reasons to leave a local church?

Application: **Be committed to your local church**

Charles Spurgeon:

*“...it is the dearest place on earth to us...”*

# EQUIP MEN (4)

## Introduction

### Godly men aim to glorify God

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God?” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

### We learn how to do this from THE godly man

Jesus read the Bible. Jesus prays. Jesus also loves the church.

“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” (Ephesians 5:25)

### Godly men love the church

Q: Can you be a Christian without the church?

Second Helvetic Confession:

*“For as there was no salvation outside Noah’s ark when the world perished in the flood; so we believe that there is no certain salvation outside Christ, who offers himself to be enjoyed by the elect in the Church; and hence we teach that those who wish to live ought not to be separated from the true Church of Christ.”*

Q: Can you be a Christian without going to a local church?

R Kent Hughes:

*“On the most elementary level, you do not have to go to church to be a Christian. You do not have to go home to be married either. But in both cases if you do not, you will have a very poor relationship.”*

Being a member of a local church is:

a) Normal.

“Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” (Acts 2:41)

b) Essential.

“See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.” (Hebrews 3:12-14)

### **The church we are to love**

Q: How is the church described in the following verses?

Q: What do each of these of the images communicate about the church and her relationship to Christ?

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” (Romans 12:4-5)

A:

“As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:4-5)

A:

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

A:

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Romans 8:29)

A:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” (Ephesians 6:10-11)

A:

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow-citizens with God’s people.” (Ephesians 2:19)

A:

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me... I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.” (John 10:14, 16)

A:

“For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” (Ephesians 5:23-25)

A:

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## **Choosing a Local Church**

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David Murray on what you should look for in a church:

- Teaching