



Lesson Title: The Power of the Local Church

As we approach our 28th Pastors and Church Anniversary, we have so much to be thankful for and so many reasons why we love our church! Take a moment and think about how much your life has changed since being at Harvest Life Church!

Through the intentional and visionary leadership, teaching and preaching of our Pastors, fellowship with our sisters and brothers, serving in ministry, awesome programs for men, women, youth, seniors and young adults, anointed praise and worship and countless other blessings, you are better than you were the first time you walked through the doors...and the best is yet to come!

When you consider how blessed you are to be a member of Harvest Life, the thing that comes to mind is, "I Love My Church!" Through this series, we'll learn more about why we should love our church and what it looks like to live out that love.

WHAT IS "THE CHURCH"?

We are the Church – God's "life system" and solution for the world's spiritual, psychological, and physical crisis today. As God's institution, we are commissioned to take the lead to establish Christian authority, values and principles in the earth even while challenged by a world culture that seeks to diminish the Voice of God. The Word of God encourages us in this effort and assures us of certain victory in **1 John 4:3-4**,

And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

According to the New Testament, the church is a "called out" group of believers that:

- take a stand for righteousness (Ephesians 6:13-15)
- assemble together (Hebrews 10:25)
- pray for situations (Matthew 18:19)
- worship corporately (Colossians 3:16)
- fellowship with one another and lead to transform the community that surrounds them. (Mark 16:15)

In this present age, great effort must be given to preserve this Biblical model as the Church labors to get people saved and make disciples for Jesus Christ globally. The Church also must remain a moral compass and be a leading force for righteousness despite the enemy and Kingdom of darkness' efforts to divide and distract the Body of Christ.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH DO?

We Lead

And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them... (Deuteronomy 28:13)

We take the lead in transforming generations for Christ in our community, region and world. It is our objective to produce a culture of empowerment that will shift the mindsets, mannerisms and ways of believers to a life of righteousness and success in every facet of living. We are passionate concerning leading souls to salvation, in discipleship, breakthrough (deliverance) and into their purpose in Christ Jesus. We uncompromisingly direct these souls through the principles in the Word of God and lead by example in the things of God.

We Grow

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: (Ephesians 4:14-15)

We are committed to spiritual growth. We believe that development through spiritual nurture is necessary for every believer and is in coordination with their personal assignment and purpose in Christ Jesus. We believe that spiritual growth is God's process of preparing Christians for leading their families, leading in the world around them and for the work of the ministry at the Local Church. It is imperative that God's people progressively walk in spiritual maturity moving to being powerful assets for the Kingdom of God.

We Impact

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20)

The power of the Body of Christ is when we come together to do greater than what we can do individually. We are here to make an IMPACT! We believe that we are called to effect change in the earth on a grand scale through the vehicle of the Local Church. We are believers on a rescue mission that are determined to see a shifting in our communities and in the world. We prayerfully and passionately seek transformation through our ministry programs, outreach programs, construction initiatives, world reach and other God-given opportunities as we seek to establish a godly culture through these efforts.

Closing Thoughts

The power of the local church is undeniable! The power of the Harvest Life Church is clearly seen in the impact we are making as we work together to lead, grow and make an impact in our homes, communities and the world.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

1. What is the church?

2. List three things that the church does as a “called out” body of believers:

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3. Look up each scripture below and write it out on the lines provided:

- Ephesians 6:13-15

- Hebrews 10:25

- Matthew 18:19

- Colossians 3:16

- Mark 16:15

4. List one way the church **leads**.

5. List one way the church **grows**.

6. List one way the church **makes an impact**.
