

## WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHES ABOUT THE NATURE, FUNCTION AND PURPOSE OF A LOCAL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

<b>Headline:</b>	<b>1. THE DIVINE PLAN for every individual believer</b>	<b>2. THE DIVINE PURPOSE for the present dispensation</b>	<b>3. THE DIVINE PRINCIPLE on which to gather together</b>	<b>4. THE DIVINE PATTERN for the conduct of NT assemblies</b>
<b>Key concept:</b>	God's will is that people be saved, baptised and added to a local assembly	An assembly is a "called-out company" bearing testimony to His name	Christians are to gather in the name [authority] of the Lord Jesus alone	The NT sets out a fixed pattern for assembly order and function
<b>Explanation:</b>	God desires each believer to contribute to and benefit from being in fellowship in a local assembly. He grants spiritual gift(s) to each one, so that the whole might be edified and grow in truth and love. In turn all men will know that we are Christ's disciples.	Local churches are unique to the parenthetical period between Pentecost and the Rapture. With Israel temporarily set aside, God is now calling "out of the Gentiles" a people for His name to testify to a rejected but returning Christ, before working nationally with Israel again.	Prior to Calvary, God dwelt a single location at Jerusalem. Today He dwells wherever two or three are "gathered together unto His name" – i.e. under the authority, lordship and ownership of Christ alone. This foundational basic principle is the one and only "ground of gathering".	The precepts, principles and historical pattern of the NT provide a blueprint for assembly order and function today, showing us "how to build" and "how to behave" in the house of God. Assembly principles are called the "commandments of the Lord".
<b>Bible References:</b>	Acts 2:41-42 Phil 2:1-2 Heb 10:24-25 1 Pet 4:10	Acts 15:14 Heb 13:13 1 Cor 10:21 2 Cor 6:14-18	Matt 18:20 John 4:21-24 Acts 20:32 1 Cor 1:12-16, 3:3-4, 5:4	1 Cor 3:6-17, 14:37 Col 2:5 1 Tim 3:14-15 Titus 1:5
<b>Contradictions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being a member of a 'ministry' but not of a local assembly</li> <li>• Online or cyber church</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State-Church alliances</li> <li>• Judaistic practices</li> <li>• Political activism</li> <li>• Emphasis on social work</li> <li>• Taking money from the world</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denominationalism</li> <li>• The Seminary system</li> <li>• Denominational names</li> <li>• Synods, councils, central oversights, head quarters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerisy</li> <li>• No display of headship</li> <li>• "Sign gifts" in operation</li> <li>• Lack of reception/discipline</li> <li>• Rock music and drama</li> </ul>