

**WHY  
DOES  
LOCAL  
CHURCH  
MATTER?**

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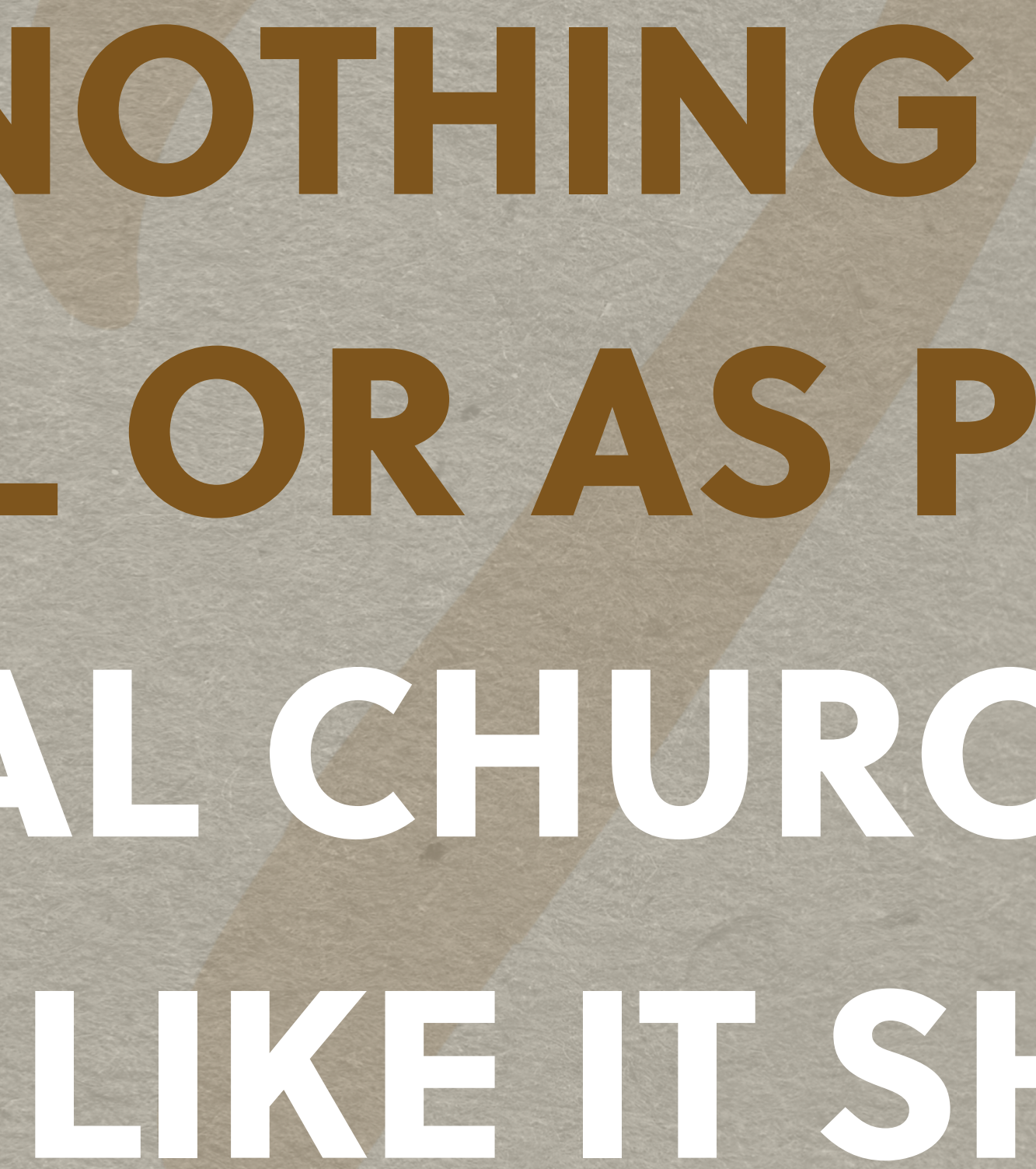




**1 THESSALONIANS 2:8**

so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to **share with you** not only **the gospel** of God but **our lives as well**.





**THERE IS NOTHING AS  
BEAUTIFUL OR AS POWERFUL  
AS A LOCAL CHURCH WHEN  
IT WORKS LIKE IT SHOULD**





1.

**BIBLICALLY MANDATED**



## **ACTS 2:46-47**

46 Every day **they continued to meet together** in the **temple courts**. They **broke bread in their homes** and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.



## HEBREWS 10:25

not giving up **meeting together**, as some are in **the habit of doing**, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.





2.

**SPIRITUALLY NECESSARY**



## ROMANS 12:4-6

4 For just as each of us has **one body with many members**, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and **each member belongs to all the others.**



## 1 PETER 2:4-5

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, **are being built** [together] **into a spiritual house** to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.



3.

**EMOTIONALLY NOURISHING**



*Social isolation's adverse health consequences range from **sleeplessness to reduced immune function**. Loneliness is associated with **higher anxiety, depression, and suicide rates**. Isolation and loneliness are also linked to **poor cardiovascular health and cognitive function**: A study led by an epidemiologist at Newcastle University concluded that deficiencies in social relationships are associated with a **higher risk for coronary heart disease and stroke**.*

*— TULANE UNIVERSITY*

*School of public health and tropical medicine*



*A study published in The Journals of Gerontology concluded that loneliness was associated with a:*

**40 percent increase in the risk of dementia.**

*Epidemiology linked social isolation with **higher risks of premature mortality.***

*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) points to loneliness and isolation as **serious public health risks.***

**— TULANE UNIVERSITY**

***School of public health and tropical medicine***



*“lack of social connection **heightens health risks** as much as smoking 15 cigarettes a day or having alcohol use disorder. Loneliness and social isolation are **twice as harmful to physical and mental health as obesity.***

*— American psychological Association*

*quote from Julianne Holt-Lunstad, PhD,*

*professor of psychology and neuroscience, Brigham Young*





4.

# **MENTALLY RENEWING**





**ROMANS 12:2**

**Do not conform** to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.



## **GALATIANS 2:11-14**

11 When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. 13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that **by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.**



## **GALATIANS 2:11-14**

14 **When I saw** that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, **I said to Cephas in front of them all**, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"





**WHAT SHOULD WE LOOK FOR  
IN A GOOD LOCAL CHURCH?**



## EPHESIANS 3:8-11

8 Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, 9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for **ages past was kept hidden in God**, who created all things. 10 **His intent** was that **now, through the church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 **according to his eternal purpose** that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.





**1. DO THEY LOVE ONE ANOTHER?**





# 1. **DO THEY** LOVE ONE ANOTHER?

**JOHN 13:35 NKJV**

By this all will know that you are My disciples, **if you have love for one another.**





1. DO THEY LOVE ONE ANOTHER?

2. DO THEY PREACH A GOSPEL OF  
GRACE OR OF WORKS?



## 2. DO THEY PREACH A GOSPEL OF GRACE OR OF WORKS?

### **GALATIANS 1:6-7**

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who **called you to live in the grace of Christ** and are **turning to a different gospel**— 7 which is really no gospel at all.

### **ACTS 20:24**

24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the **gospel of God's grace**.





1. DO THEY LOVE ONE ANOTHER?

2. DO THEY PREACH A GOSPEL OF GRACE OR OF WORKS?

3. **ARE THEY LED BY HOLY SPIRIT APPOINTED, SERVANT-LEADERS**



# 3. ARE THEY LED BY HOLY SPIRIT APPOINTED, SERVANT-LEADERS

**ACTS 20:28**

28 **Keep watch** over yourselves and all the flock of which **the Holy Spirit** has made you **overseers**. Be **shepherds** of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.



1. DO THEY LOVE ONE ANOTHER?
2. DO THEY PREACH A GOSPEL OF GRACE OR OF WORKS?
3. ARE THEY LED BY HOLY SPIRIT APPOINTED, SERVANT-LEADERS
4. IS THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF JESUS EVIDENT AMONG THEM?



# 4. IS THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF JESUS EVIDENT AMONG THEM?

## ACTS 20:28

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, . . . . 5 having **a form of godliness** but **denying its power**. And from such people turn away!

## 1 CORINTHIANS 4:20

20 For **the kingdom of God** is not a matter of talk but of **power**.



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