

4. **Practise hospitality** without thought of reward. Write out *1Pet 4:9* _____

- Read also *Heb 13:1,2; 1Tim 5:10; Tit 1:8.*
5. **Love one another** earnestly from the heart, *1Pet 1:22.*
Read *1Cor 12:25-27; Heb 13:3; 2Cor 11:29.* The members of the Local Church should be so **closely** united that the suffering of one is felt and shared by all.
6. **Keep your lives free** from love of money. *Heb 13:5; Ac 2:45.* Notice that *1Tim 6:10* does not say that money is the root of all evil; it says that the love of money is the root of all evil. Money is very useful when used for the Kingdom of God; however if people in the Local Church love money, they will not be able to come into a real sense of community.

MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

This is an important subject and will be dealt with in its own right later in the course. (See Study 23,24).

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE CHURCH

Read carefully the prayer of Jesus for us in *Jn 17:20-24.* He did not pray for the salvation of the world, because He knew that two things will always happen when the world sees great love and oneness in believers. List them here:

1. V21 _____
2. V23 _____

Read the following passages: *Eph 1:9,10; Eph 4:4-13; Eph 5:25-27.* The Church is going to be like this before Jesus returns!

No 20

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

Study Twenty: The Church Part 2

In our last study we looked at the Universal Church and the Local Church in a general kind of way. This study will examine issues that relate to the Local Church in a practical way. Words that are often used in these days to describe the Local Church are "God's House"and we will use that term in this study.

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS GOD'S HOUSE

1. What is the reason that Paul gave to Timothy for writing to him? *1Tim 3:15* _____

2. What did Jesus call God's House after He had chased out the money changers? *Mat 21:13* _____
3. What were the four things believers focused on in the early Church? *Ac 2:42* _____

4. How frequently did they gather together? *Ac 2:46* _____
5. What were the two places they gathered in? *Ac 2:46* _____

6. What did they do for anyone among them who was in need? *Ac 2:45* _____
7. Do you think the "Local Church" was the building they gathered in, or the believers who came together?

8. When the Local Church is operating in a way that pleases God, how does He reveal His presence? *Ac 2:43* _____

9. How did the early Church impact the community outside the Church? *Ac 2:47, (also Lk 19:10)* _____

10. What is the phrase used to describe the unity of the early Church? *Ac 4:32* _____

11. Can you see any keys that caused, or led to this unity of believers? *Ac 4:31* _____

PRACTICAL EVERYDAY LIVING IN THE LOCAL CHURCH, GOD'S HOUSE

The members in the Local Church gather, so that together with our brothers and sisters we might grow and develop until we are like Jesus. How can a Local Church become more mature in Christ? *Eph 4:15, Gal 5:13* _____

Read *Col 3:12-17* and answer the following questions:

1. Our Christian life began with Christ forgiving our sins. Because of this, what sort of attitude should we have towards each other? *VI3* _____

2. In a Local Church what is the important thing that binds everyone together in perfect harmony? *VI4* _____
What does this word mean? _____

3. We are told to build each other up in the Lord by teaching and admonishing one another in all spiritual wisdom. What must we do to ensure that what we say is what God wants us to say? *VI6* _____

Read *1Pet 3:8,9* in a modern translation and answer these questions:

1. Which of these qualities do you think are the most important for members of any Local Church? _____
_____ Why? _____
2. What should we do when Christian friends say unkind things about us or hurt us in any way? _____

3. What does God promise us if we bless (pray for their welfare, happiness and protection, and really loving them) those who insult or hurt us? _____

LEARNING TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Read *Jn 15:9-14, Jn 13:34,35*. This love that should be a characteristic of our lives can only really develop as we fellow-ship with people in the Local Church. Let us look at some practical things that we can do in this direction.

1. **Meet together** enough to be able to share. Read *Heb 3:13; Ac 2:46; Ac 20:7*. What do these verses tell us concerning the meeting together of the early Christians? _____

2. **Make praise** and worship a priority when coming together. Read *Heb 13:15* in a modern version. Notice how praising God, and fellowship in the Local Church are related! Read also *Eph 5:18-21; 1Thes 5:16-18; 1Pet 2:5*. Love always says "thank you"... to God and to each other.
3. **Submit in a practical way** to local leadership. God has ordained leadership in the Local Church. Failure to submit to that leadership constitutes a failure to submit to God. Read carefully *Heb 13:17, Eph 4:2,3*.