

THE GENIUS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

The idea of the local church has suffered much criticism. Many seem to think they can improve on God's design. However, a fresh look at the institution of the local church as revealed in the Word will serve to increase our appreciation for the plan of God. There are five areas in which the local church cannot be surpassed by any plan of man.

I. Teaching the Bible is done best by the local church.

- A. The Bible is best taught by people you know. (II Tim.3:10)
- B. The Bible is best taught by people who know you. (Rev.2:2-4)
- C. The Holy Spirit works in a unique way in the church gathered.
(I Cor.2:4,5)

II. Accountability is done best by the local church.

- A. Accountability of the preacher to the people (II Cor.4:1,2)
- B. Accountability of the people to the preacher (Heb.13:17)
- C. Accountability of the members to one another (Heb.10:25)
- D. Accountability to those who have gone before—orthodoxy
(Heb.13:7)

III. Spiritual care is done best by the local church.

- A. Spiritual care by the minister (I Thess.2:7-12)
- B. Spiritual care by the members (I Cor.12:25,26)

IV. Involvement in service is done best by the local church.

- A. Involvement which makes a difference in lives now (I Cor.12:7)
- B. Involvement which perpetuates the faith for future generations
(II Tim.2:2)

V. Glorifying God is done best by the local church.

- A. The church gathered glorifies God. (Rom.15:6-11)
- B. The church triumphant will glorify God. (Eph.3:20,21)

We need to esteem and honor the church. We need to give our prayers and energies to strive for her advancement. This is the heart of God for this age.