

## What is a Believer's responsibility to the Local Church?

1. Love its Head (Jesus Christ).
2. Faithfully attend its services.
3. Support its mission.
4. Follow its God-ordained leadership.
5. Encourage its members.

### Notes:

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# FOUNDATIONS OF MY FAITH SERIES

## LESSON 8:

# NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

# New Testament Church

## What is a Church?

1. The church is a group of believers who gather together on a regular basis.  
*Acts 2:46-47 “And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”*
2. The church is God’s institution to provide support and structure for our faith.  
*I Timothy 3:15 “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”*  
*Ephesians 2:20 “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;”*
3. The church is the flock of God.  
*Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*  
*I Peter 5:2 “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;”*
4. The church is the body of Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 12:14-21)
  - A. Each member’s function is different. (vs. 14-20)
  - B. Each member’s function is dependent on the other’s. (vs. 21)
  - C. Each member’s function is vital. (vs. 22-24)
  - D. Each member’s function contributes to the success of the entire body. (vs. 25-27)

## What is the Purpose of the Local Church?

### The local church is a place where believers gather to:

1. Hear God’s Word.  
*Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*
2. Pray. (Acts 2:42)
3. Fellowship with other believers. (Acts 2:42)
4. Observe the two ordinances—Baptism and Lord’s Supper.  
*Acts 2:41-42 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and*

*the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

5. Fulfill the Great Commission by sending the Gospel locally and globally.  
*Matthew 28:19-20 “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.”*
6. Bring tithes and offerings to the Lord.  
*Malachi 3:8-10 “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”*  
*I Corinthians 16:2 “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”*
7. Serve with their God-given gifts.  
*I Corinthians 12:18 “But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.”*
8. Observe, learn, minister, and lead.  
*Ephesians 4:11-14 “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: 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;”*
9. Encourage, restore, and strengthen other believers.  
*Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*  
*Galatians 6:1 “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”*