

Core Value: Centrality of the Local Church

1 Timothy 3:15

if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

I. The local church is the _____ of God.

1 Timothy 3:4–5

4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

A. In the context of 2 Timothy Paul is definitely speaking of the local church as opposed to the universal church.

B. Since the local church is God's family there are implications for living life in the church.

1. We will try to be close to others in the church.

1 Timothy 5:1–2

1 Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

2. We will fulfill our responsibilities toward one another.

Galatians 6:10

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

II. The local church is the _____ of the God who _____.

1 Thessalonians 1:9

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

1. God owns the church.

Acts 20:28

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

2. God gives life to the church.

3. God purifies the church.

Hebrews 3:12–14

12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. **13** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

Hebrews 10:31

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

2 Corinthians 6:16–18

16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **17** Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, **18** and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

III. The local church is the _____ of the _____.

Ephesians 4:11–12

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

- A. God holds up the truth in the local church through Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.**
- B. God holds up the truth in the local church when they assemble for preaching and worship.**
- C. God holds up the truth in the local church as His people teach and live out the word at the same time.**
- D. God holds up the truth in the local church as His people encourage one another.**

IV. The local church is the _____ of the _____.

- A. God provides permanence and stability for His truth in the local church.**
- B. How does the truth find stability in the local church?**

1. Pastors in the local church are charged by God to protect the sheep from wolves and false teaching.
2. There is accountability amongst all the members of the local church to maintain purity of doctrine and purity of life.

Do you have **questions/comments** about *the centrality of the local church* that you would like to **discuss with a pastor?**

*** We want to answer your questions! Notes you make in this box at the end of each section can help jog your memory on things to bring up when you meet with a pastor as part of Crossway's membership process ***