

Definition and Purpose

1. A local church is a fellowship of born-again followers of Jesus Christ whose profession of faith shows itself in holy living and good works.
2. A local church may be recognized where:
 - a. the whole of God's Word is preached and practiced;
 - b. the two ordinances established by Christ's authority, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper, are correctly administered; and
 - c. the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church is duly recognized.
3. The purpose of the local church is:
 - a. to provide for the united worship of God in prayer and praise;
 - b. to provide for the fellowship and nurture of God's people through teaching and pastoral care;
 - c. to be God's instrument in preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in all the world; and
 - d. to be salt and light in the unbelieving world.