



**The Person & the Work of the**

# *Holy Spirit*

*6. The Role of the Holy Spirit  
in the Church - 3*



You cannot fit the role of the Holy Spirit into a framework that is unbiblical, that doesn't align with what God's Word says about the Church, and expect to understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit or expect to see the Holy Spirit at work as promised in God's Word.

**MY Opinion**



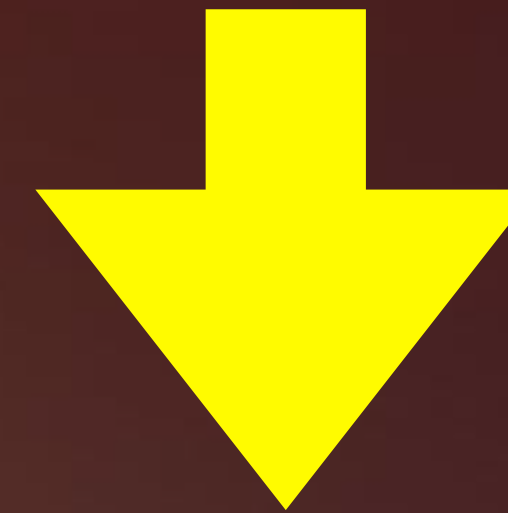
**MY Truth**

**YOUR Opinion**



**YOUR Truth**

**ANOTHER Opinion**



**THEIR Truth**

**“The fewer the facts, the stronger the opinion.” (Arnold H. Glasow)**

A wooden gavel is positioned diagonally across the frame, resting on an open book. The book's pages are filled with text, including the words "TRUTH" and "end of story". The gavel has a dark wood head and a lighter wood handle. The background is a close-up of the book's pages, showing various words and phrases.

**TRUTH!**

**... end of story ...**

10. The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nought; He makes the thoughts and plans of the peoples of no effect.
11. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of His heart through all generations.

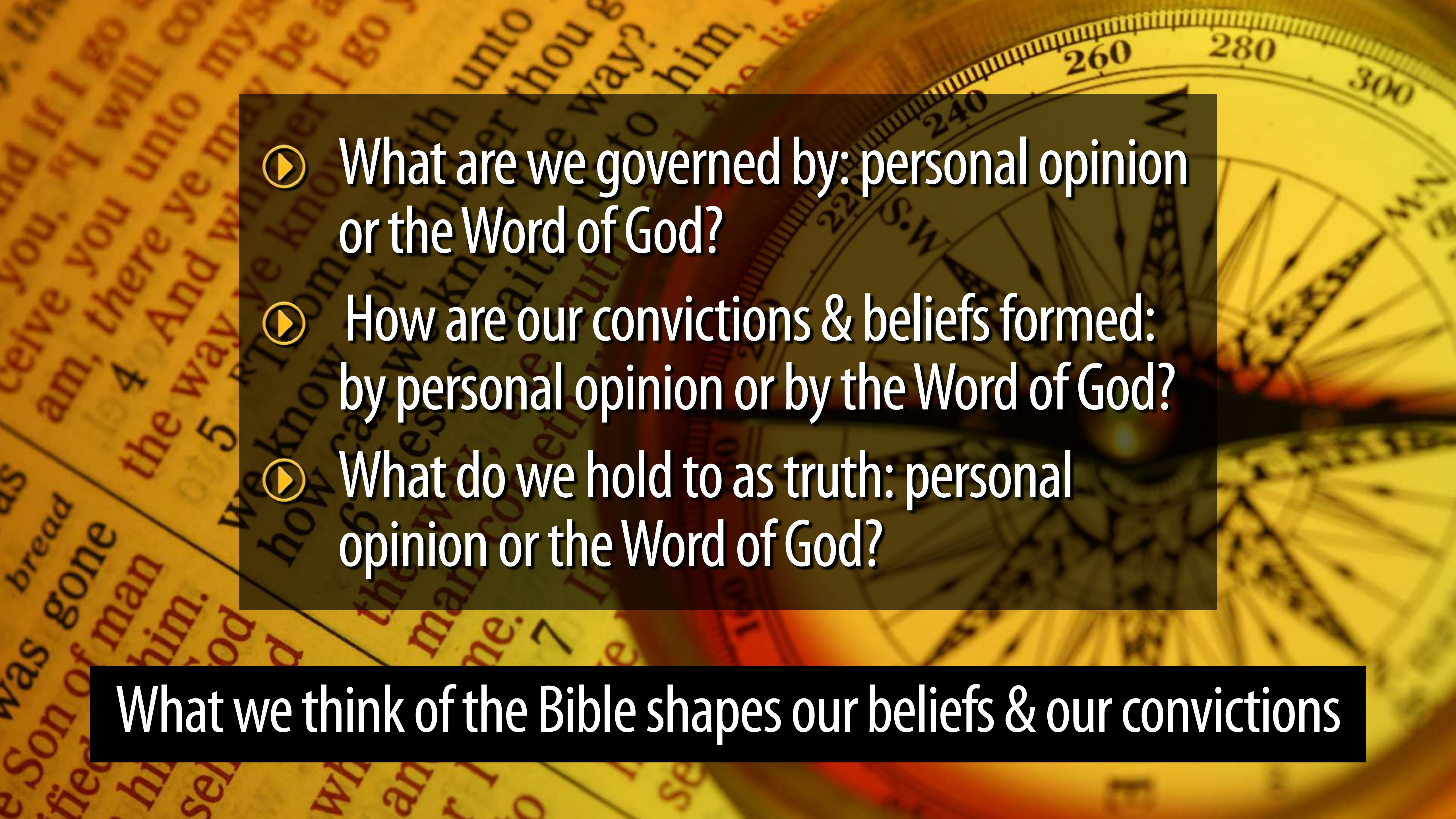
**Psalm 33:10 -11**

For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, **you accepted it** not as the word of men, but **for what it really is, the word of God**, which also performs its work in you who believe.

**1 Thessalonians 2:13**

2. preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.
3. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, **they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,**
4. and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

**2 Timothy 4:2-4**

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- ▶ What are we governed by: personal opinion or the Word of God?
  - ▶ How are our convictions & beliefs formed: by personal opinion or by the Word of God?
  - ▶ What do we hold to as truth: personal opinion or the Word of God?

**What we think of the Bible shapes our beliefs & our convictions**

Rejection of the Bible as the basis of all authority—even by the majority as is the case in most Western nations—in no way invalidates the truths in God’s Word. Other people say they accept the Bible, but reject sections from it because the contents do not agree with their own personal beliefs or opinions. This approach is unacceptable to God.

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**André van Belkum**

19. So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.
20. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.
21. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

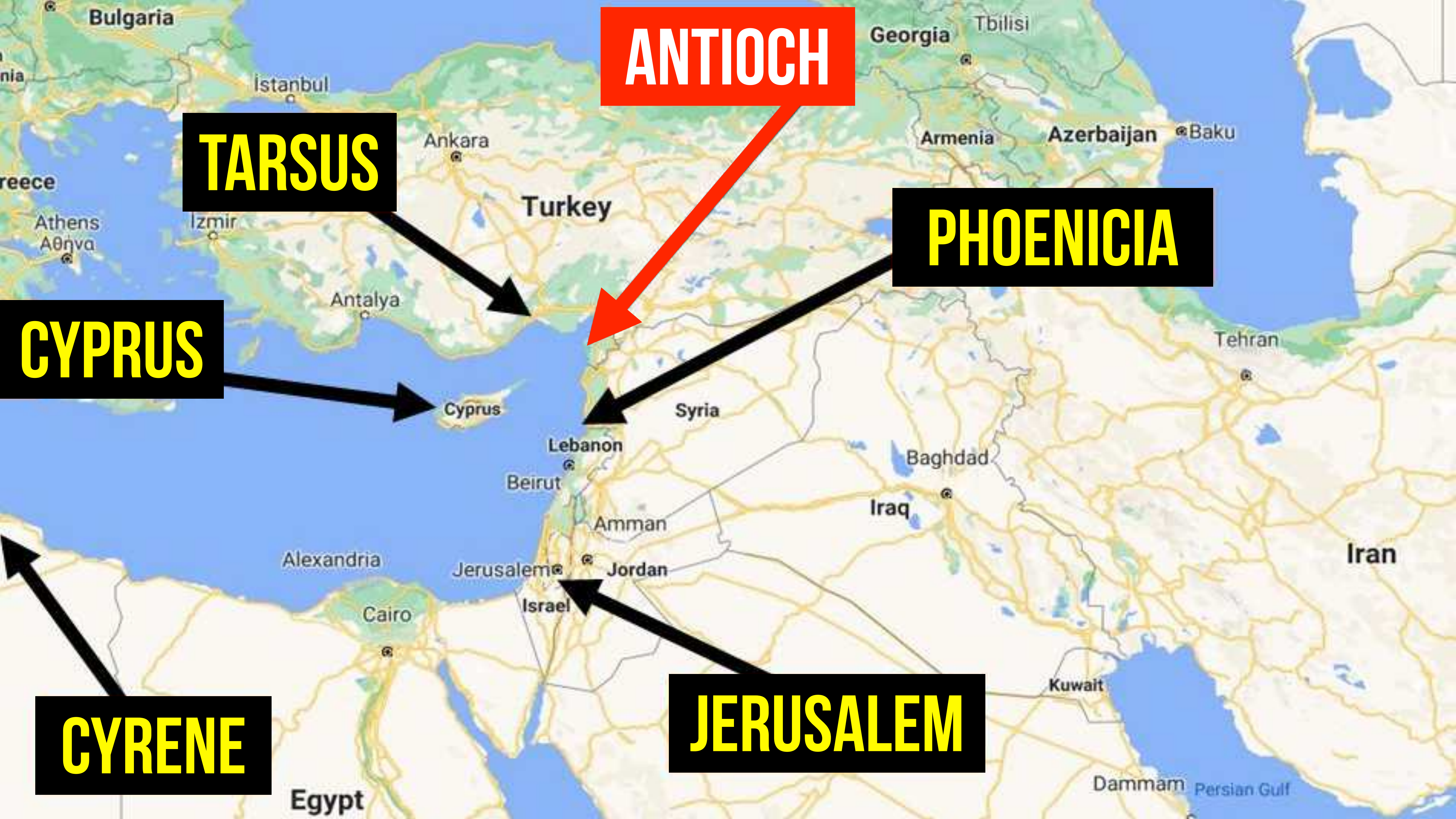
**Acts 11:19-21**

22. The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch.
23. Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord;
24. for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

**Acts 11:22-24**

25. And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul;  
26. and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

**Acts 11:25-26**



**ANTIOCH**

**TARSUS**

**PHOENICIA**

**CYPRUS**

**CYRENE**

**JERUSALEM**

# The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch

- ▶ They had been called **disciples** (Acts 1:15)
- ▶ They had been called **saints** (Acts 9:13)
- ▶ They had been called **believers** (Acts 5:14)
- ▶ They had been called **brothers** (Acts 6:3)
- ▶ They had been called **witnesses** (Acts 5:32)
- ▶ They had been called **followers of the Way** (Acts 9:2)



**ANTIOCH**

Journeys of St. Paul

- 1st journey
- 2nd journey
- 3rd journey
- 4th journey

0 50 100 150 200 mi  
0 100 200 300 km

1. Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, **prophets and teachers**: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
2. While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
3. Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

**Acts 13:1-3**

▶ The Church is just “two or three gathered”

For where two or three have  
gathered together in My name,  
I am there in their midst.

**Matthew 18:20**

- ▶ Me and my mate meet together each week at the local café. That's my Church!
- ▶ We have our little fellowship group that meets each week and we have communion and we pray for one another and we discuss the things of God. That's my Church!
- ▶ My Church is the missions group that I belong to. We are involved in reaching the lost and providing aid and relief for the poor.
- ▶ I don't need to fellowship with other believers – God and I have Church here in my home. I put on some music and I sing and read my Bible, that's Church!

The context of “where two or three are gathered together in My name” (Matthew 18:20) has to do with church discipline and the confrontation of the wayward sinner. In verse 16, the principle has been invoked of needing “two or three witnesses” in making an accusation (cf. Deuteronomy 19:15). It seems that the mention of “two or three” in verse 20 echoes that principle; the “two or three” are confronting sin in the church.

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**Precept Austin Commentary**

To use this statement to claim the Lord's presence at a small worship service or prayer meeting does not fit the context of church discipline and is superfluous. Christ is always present with His people, even with a lone believer totally separated from fellow Christians by prison walls or by hundreds of miles. The context demands that the two or three are witnesses in the process of discipline.

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**John MacArthur**

The Bible encourages informal fellowship, but even a fellowship that meets regularly for mutual ministry is not a full-fledged local congregation by biblical standards. Local congregations have **organization, authority, responsibilities,** and **safeguards** in place that informal fellowships do not. Modern evangelistic organizations, mercy ministries and other such groups, valid as they are, may not be considered local congregations either. It is important to distinguish between the local congregation and other groups of believers in order to rightly divide those portions of the Word of Truth that have to do with these matters.

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**Norman Manzon (The Local Church - A Messianic Bible Study)**

# THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS DEFINED BY:

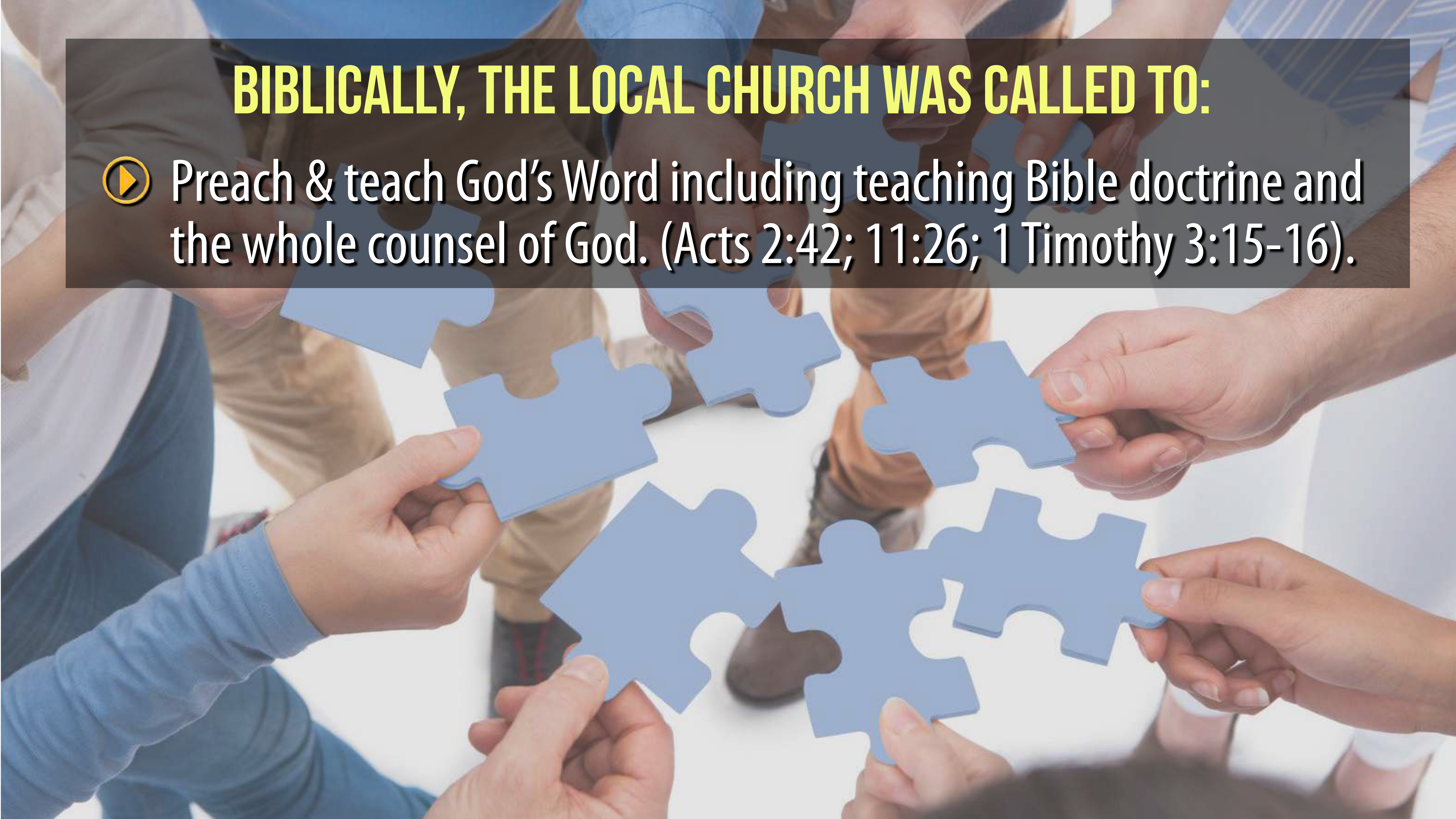
- ▶ clear biblical STRUCTURE
- ▶ clear biblical ORGANISATION
- ▶ clear biblical PURPOSE

# THE PURPOSE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

- ▶ The local Church in Scripture was a fellowship of believers knitted together by the Holy Spirit to fulfill the specific purposes of the called out community of Christ that is the Church, the Body of Christ.
- ▶ We can identify at least fourteen purposes detailed in Scripture for the local Church that help to define biblically what constitutes a local Church.

## **BIBLICALLY, THE LOCAL CHURCH WAS CALLED TO:**

- ▶ Preach & teach God's Word including teaching Bible doctrine and the whole counsel of God. (Acts 2:42; 11:26; 1 Timothy 3:15-16).



Preaching and teaching hold a central place in the Christian faith, serving as the primary means through which the truths of Scripture are communicated and the faith is propagated.

Preaching and teaching are essential functions within the church, serving to equip believers for service and maturity in faith.

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**[biblehub.com](http://biblehub.com)**

1. I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:
2. **preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.
3. For the time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,
4. and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

**2 Timothy 4:1-4**

11. And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as shepherds and some as teachers,
12. for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;
13. UNTIL we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

**Ephesians 4:11-13**

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- ▶ Preaching is an ineffective form of communication
  - ▶ Preaching limits discussion & debate
  - ▶ We are preaching to different people today

12. We have not received the spirit of the world, but (we have received) the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.
13. And this is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom, but **in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.**
14. The natural man does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God. For they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

**1 Corinthians 2: 12-14**

At that moment He was filled with joy by the Holy Spirit and said, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I thank You because **You concealed these things from the sophisticated and educated, yet You revealed them to ordinary people.** Yes, Father, I thank You that it pleased You to do this.

**Luke 10:21**

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- ▶ Preaching is an ineffective form of communication
  - ▶ **Preaching limits discussion & debate**
  - ▶ We are preaching to different people today

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- ▶ Preaching is an ineffective form of communication
  - ▶ Preaching limits discussion & debate
  - ▶ **We are preaching to different people today**

As the nation's civic conversation is stripped of all biblical references and content, Americans increasingly live in a Scripture-free public space. Confusion and ignorance of the Bible's content should be assumed in post-Christian America.

The larger scandal is biblical ignorance among Christians. Choose whichever statistic or survey you like, the general pattern is the same. America's Christians know less and less about the Bible. It shows.

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**R. ALBERT MOHLER, JR.**

**The Scandal of Biblical Illiteracy: It's Our Problem**

Churches must recover the centrality and urgency of biblical teaching and preaching, and refuse to sideline the teaching ministry of the preacher. Pastors and churches too busy—or too distracted—to make biblical knowledge a central aim of ministry will produce believers who simply do not know enough to be faithful disciples.

The many fronts of Christian compromise in this generation can be directly traced to biblical illiteracy in the pews and the absence of biblical preaching and teaching in our homes and churches.

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**R. ALBERT MOHLER, JR.**

**The Scandal of Biblical Illiteracy: It's Our Problem**

Christian preaching has as its purpose nothing less than the complete conformity of every child of God to the perfect image of Christ the Son.

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**Dennis E. Johnson**

Preaching's goal is the spiritual maturity of believers that can only come from the wisdom of Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

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**Michael Horton**

- ▶ BIBLICAL Preaching and Teaching are the primary means through which the truths of Scripture are communicated.
- ▶ BIBLICAL Preaching and Teaching are essential functions within the church, for the purpose of equipping believers for service & for maturing believers in the things of God.

## **BIBLICALLY, THE LOCAL CHURCH WAS CALLED TO:**

- ▶ Preach & teach God's Word including teaching Bible doctrine and the whole counsel of God. (Acts 2:42; 11:26; 1 Timothy 3:15-16).
- ▶ Facilitate corporate prayer. (Acts 2:42; 4:31; 12:5 & 12; Hebrews 13:15).
- ▶ Observe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41-42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29).
- ▶ Exercise spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14).
- ▶ Exercise Church discipline and spiritual discipline (1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15, 1 Timothy 5:20).

## **BIBLICALLY, THE LOCAL CHURCH WAS CALLED TO:**

- ▶ Make disciples of peoples from all nations and to disciple believers until they are firmly grounded in the Word of God (Matthew 28:18–20). “Discipleship involves three elements: preaching the gospel, baptism and teaching the Word of God” (Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum).
- ▶ Plant Churches and to support those Churches, specifically through the commissioning and sending of five-fold ministers and Apostolic teams. (Acts 11:22–24; 13:1–4).
- ▶ To provide for the needy but in particular, the needy amongst the believing community (Acts 6:1–6; 2 Corinthians 8:4–7; 1 Timothy 5:16; James 1:27).

## **BIBLICALLY, THE LOCAL CHURCH WAS CALLED TO:**

- ▶ Build up the Body of Christ which is the Church. The Body of Christ is the universal Church but the universal Church is comprised of local Churches of believers in Christ (Ephesians 4:11–16). The five-fold ministries called to equip God's people for the building up of the Body are those Christ has set IN the Church, not elsewhere. God's purpose is for individual believers to be firmly planted and rooted in the Word of God, so that they mature in the things of God and are no longer tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine.



## **BIBLICALLY, THE LOCAL CHURCH WAS CALLED TO:**

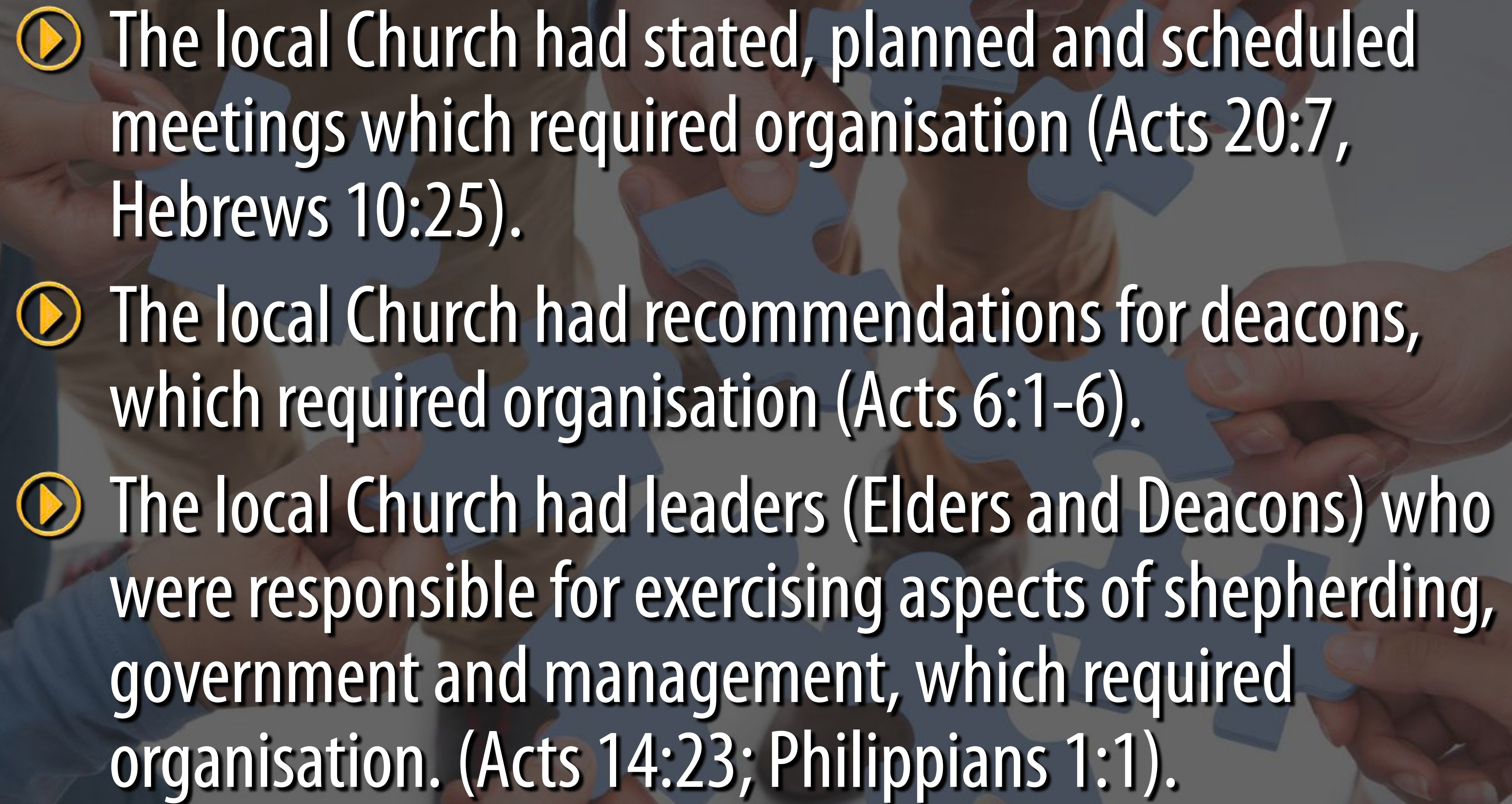
- ▶ Outwork the function of priesthood (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; Philippians 4:8). The New Testament teaches the “priesthood of all believers” and every believer is to exercise the function of a priest, which is representing the people to God.
- ▶ Do good in this world in general but especially to those of the “household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).

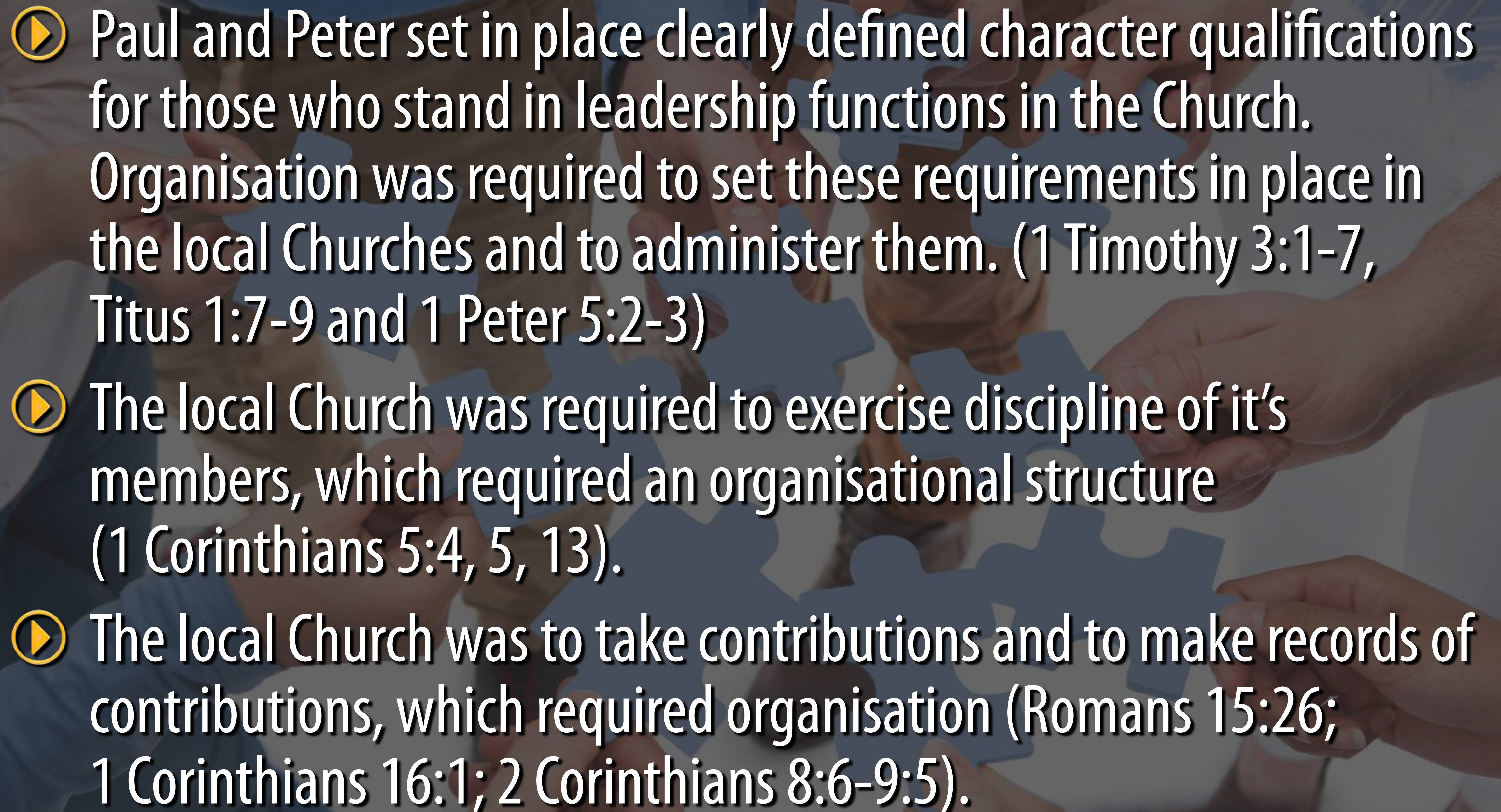
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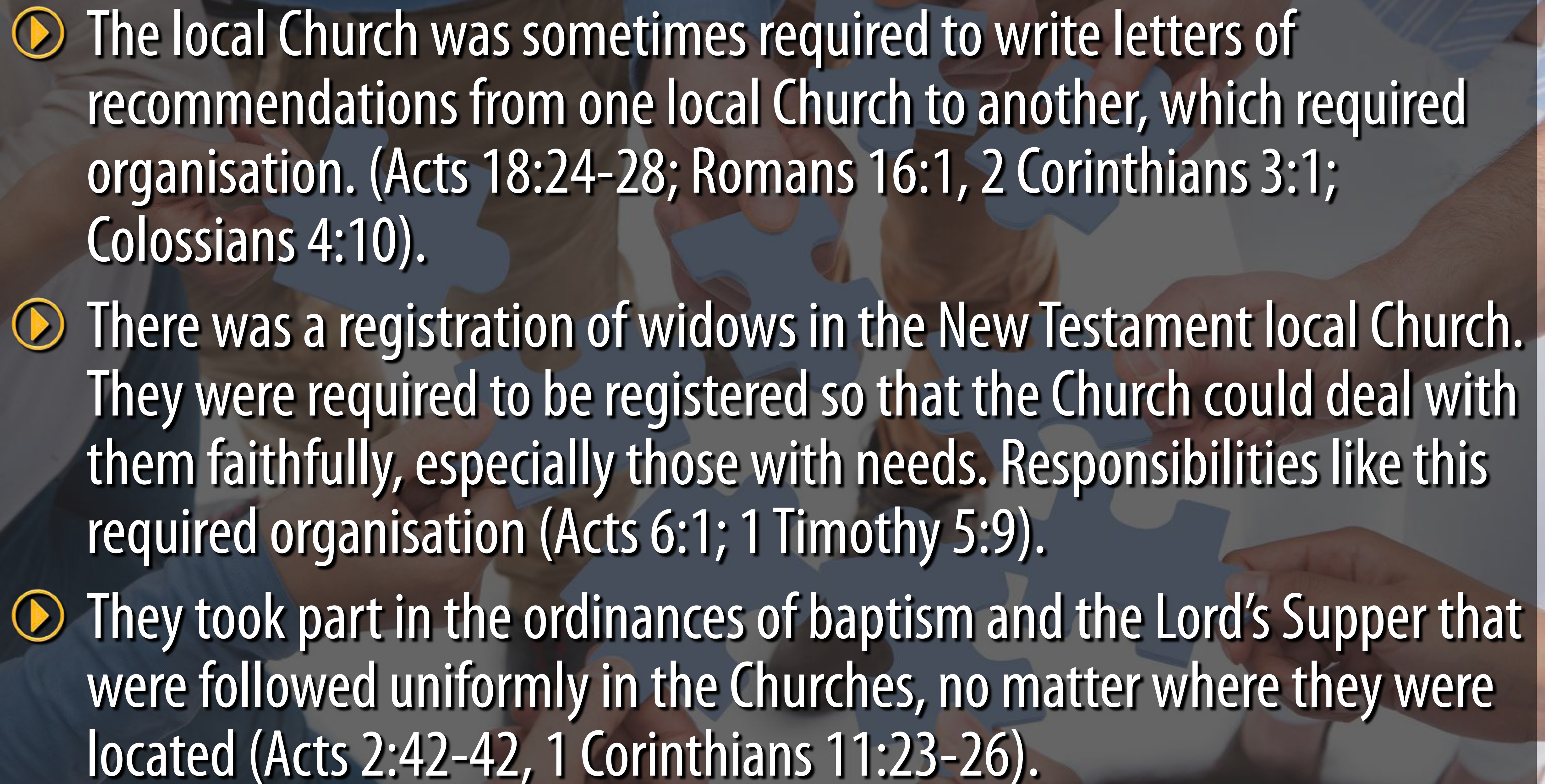
- ▶ Worship God corporately (Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16-17) understanding that true worship is simply the adoration and devotion that God deserves because He is God.
- ▶ Glorify God through the ministry of the Church (Romans 15:6; Ephesians 3:21; 2 Thessalonians 1:12; 1 Peter 4:11).
- ▶ Be God's instrument to demonstrate to the principalities and the powers of the air the manifold wisdom of God. (Ephesians 3:10).

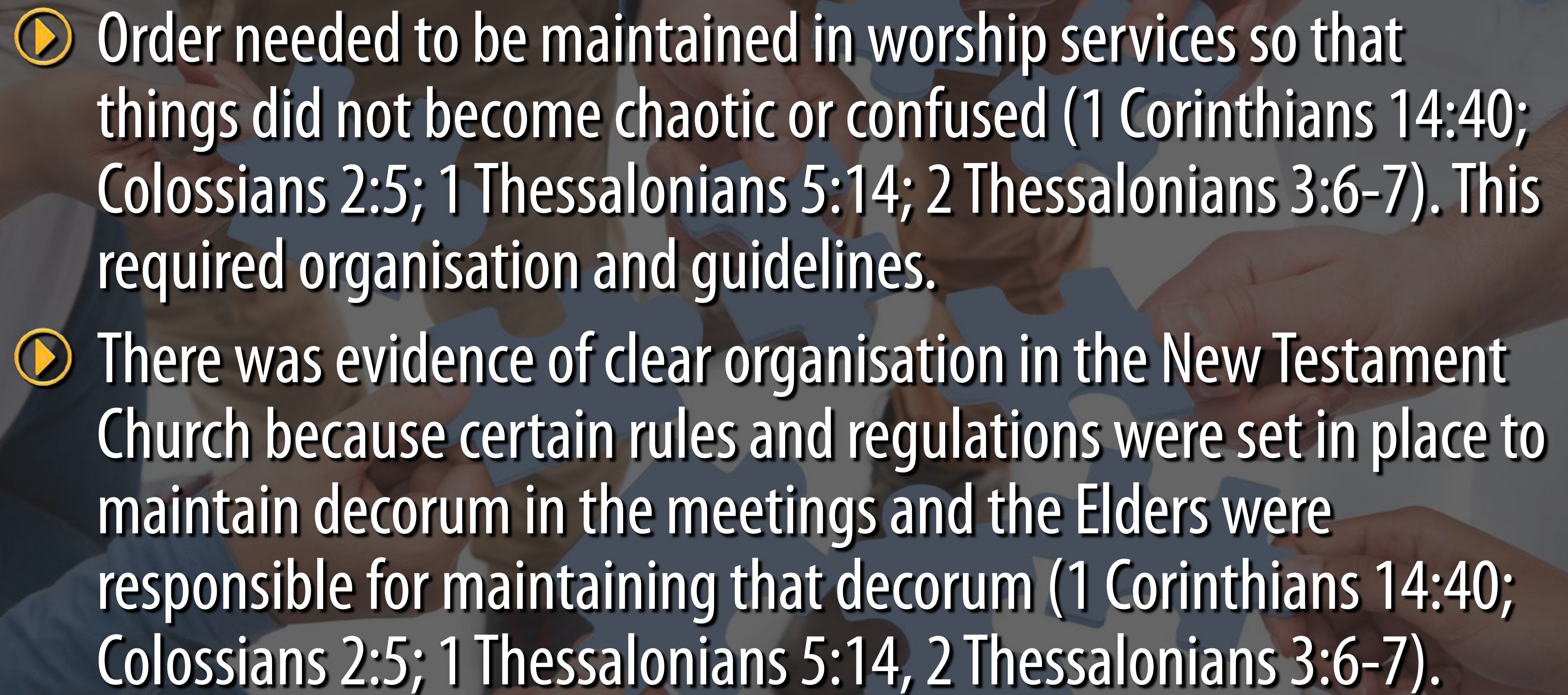
# THE ORGANISATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

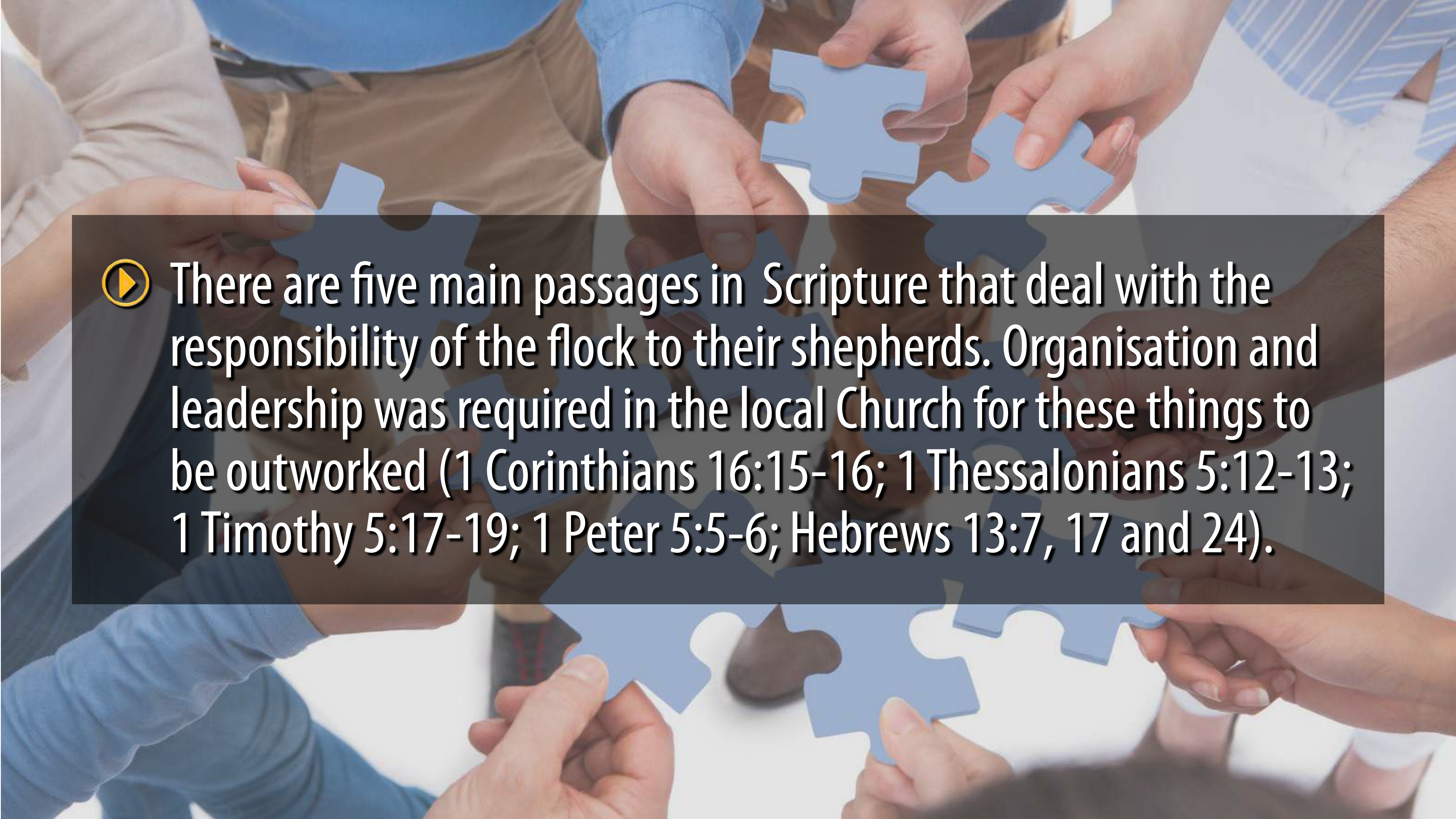
- ▶ The local Church is also defined by the organisation that existed in the New Testament Church. Some teach that a local Church exists whenever two or three people meet together and that the Church then does not require organisation. Some would suggest, that it doesn't require leadership. Both views are unbiblical.
- ▶ The New Testament Church, including in the times when the Church was "underground", was an organised coming together of believers and not a haphazard thing.
- ▶ We can identify at least twelve aspects of clear organisation in the New Testament Church.

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- ▶ The local Church had stated, planned and scheduled meetings which required organisation (Acts 20:7, Hebrews 10:25).
  - ▶ The local Church had recommendations for deacons, which required organisation (Acts 6:1-6).
  - ▶ The local Church had leaders (Elders and Deacons) who were responsible for exercising aspects of shepherding, government and management, which required organisation. (Acts 14:23; Philippians 1:1).

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- The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones reaching in from the edges to hold together a collection of interlocking puzzle pieces. The puzzle pieces are in shades of blue and white, and their arrangement suggests a complex, interconnected system or a shared mission. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the hands and the edges of the puzzle pieces.
- ▶ Paul and Peter set in place clearly defined character qualifications for those who stand in leadership functions in the Church. Organisation was required to set these requirements in place in the local Churches and to administer them. (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:7-9 and 1 Peter 5:2-3)
  - ▶ The local Church was required to exercise discipline of its members, which required an organisational structure (1 Corinthians 5:4, 5, 13).
  - ▶ The local Church was to take contributions and to make records of contributions, which required organisation (Romans 15:26; 1 Corinthians 16:1; 2 Corinthians 8:6-9:5).

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- ▶ The local Church was sometimes required to write letters of recommendations from one local Church to another, which required organisation. (Acts 18:24-28; Romans 16:1, 2 Corinthians 3:1; Colossians 4:10).
  - ▶ There was a registration of widows in the New Testament local Church. They were required to be registered so that the Church could deal with them faithfully, especially those with needs. Responsibilities like this required organisation (Acts 6:1; 1 Timothy 5:9).
  - ▶ They took part in the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper that were followed uniformly in the Churches, no matter where they were located (Acts 2:42-42, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

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- ▶ Order needed to be maintained in worship services so that things did not become chaotic or confused (1 Corinthians 14:40; Colossians 2:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-7). This required organisation and guidelines.
  - ▶ There was evidence of clear organisation in the New Testament Church because certain rules and regulations were set in place to maintain decorum in the meetings and the Elders were responsible for maintaining that decorum (1 Corinthians 14:40; Colossians 2:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:14, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-7).



▶ There are five main passages in Scripture that deal with the responsibility of the flock to their shepherds. Organisation and leadership was required in the local Church for these things to be outworked (1 Corinthians 16:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:17-19; 1 Peter 5:5-6; Hebrews 13:7, 17 and 24).

- ▶ It is evident that the New Testament local Church was not a group of unorganised or disorganised individuals coming together haphazardly. The biblical evidence is that a well maintained level of organisation existed.
- ▶ On the basis of the PURPOSE and ORGANISATION that biblically defines the New Testament Church, it is clear that the local Church is far more than a few people gathering together.
- ▶ A House Church is therefore an expression of the life and the ministry of the Church but it is not the Church that is the Body of Christ, because of the absence of STRUCTURE that God sets in the Church. There is usually also an absence of some aspects of the biblical PURPOSES and ORGANISATIONAL aspects of the New Testament Church that define the local Church.

25. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
26. so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
27. so that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

**Ephesians 5:25-27**

20. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,
21. to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

**Ephesians 3:20-21**