

Welcome To The

INVISIBLE CHURCH



We are living in an age when there is a strong antagonism toward commitment and accountability; however, the Christian life is a life that is committed to the cause of Jesus Christ and every sincere Christian will be eager to be a part of His cause.

Is Church Membership Optional With God?

There is no verse in the Bible that explicitly says we must join a local church; however, church membership permeates the entire New

Testament, and is so obvious that we do not need a special verse about it.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, “I will build my church.” He didn’t say He would build two different kinds of churches. There is no such thing as the so-called universal, or invisible church. There are hundreds of verses in the Bible that make no sense at all except within the context of a local church. God gave pastors who are commanded to know how to direct the behaviour of the local church.

First Timothy 3:14,15

“These things write I unto thee...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.”

God Has A Chain of Command.

Hebrews 13:7

*“Remember them which have **the rule over you**, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”*

Hebrews 13:24

*“Salute (Strong’s - to receive joyfully”) all them that have **the rule over you**,...”*

First Corinthians 16:15,16

*“I beseech you, brethren...that ye **submit yourselves** unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.”*

Hebrews 13:17

*“Obey them that have **the rule over you**, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”*

Obedience to the verses above is impossible in a so-called universal, or invisible church.

The Bible includes three Books (First and Second Timothy and Titus.) giving instructions to pastors and deacons concerning God's standards for the local church. God also wrote seven letters to seven pastors concerning their responsibilities regarding maintaining His standards in His church.

The New Testament includes another twenty Books focusing on the responsibilities of church members. All members are equally responsible before God to maintain a standard in the local church that is "...acceptable unto the Lord." (Ephesians 5:10).

The Local Church Is The Greatest Institution In The Entire World.

Christ died for the local church (Ephesians 5:25) and has given the church membership the greatest assignment ever given to anyone. The membership of God's local church also has the greatest privilege ever given to anyone in the entire world. The church is made up of saved and baptized believers, who regularly join together for worship, fellowship, and ministry. The local church is God's only ordained structure for reaching the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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."

One third of the above command given by our Lord has to do with baptizing people. This cannot be done in a universal Church, neither should it be done in a para-church organization.

The Command Is Clear

Hebrews 10:25

"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."

Spectator Christians

There are many spectators at a ball game, they come and go as they please, however, the team members must be faithful to all the games and follow whoever is in charge. God expects no less for those who would have the privilege of being members of His local church.

Those who are not committed to God's program should be made to feel welcome as spectators. Those who would join must be required to support the pulpit ministry of the church. (Example - doctrine/standards/ separation/tithing, philosophy of ministry, etc.)

"Tell It To The Church"

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, **"I will build my church."** His next mention of the word "church" is in Matthew 18:17 where He spoke about discipline and He said, **"tell it to the church."**

How could we tell something to a Universal, Invisible Church? Would we just open a window and yell it out hoping someone in an invisible church would take care of the problem?

We could list over 100 Scriptures in which church or churches occur, in the context of a local, visible assembly.

The so-called invisible church heresy has been a major tool in the hands of Satan to promote the apostasy of our day.

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Local Church Ministries

**"Investing In Eternity
By Strengthening The
Local Church"**