

# The Nature of Church





## The Universal Church

‘Upon this rock I will build  
my church’ - Matthew  
16:18.



## The Local Church Matt 18:17

If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit ..... Acts 2

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.....

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

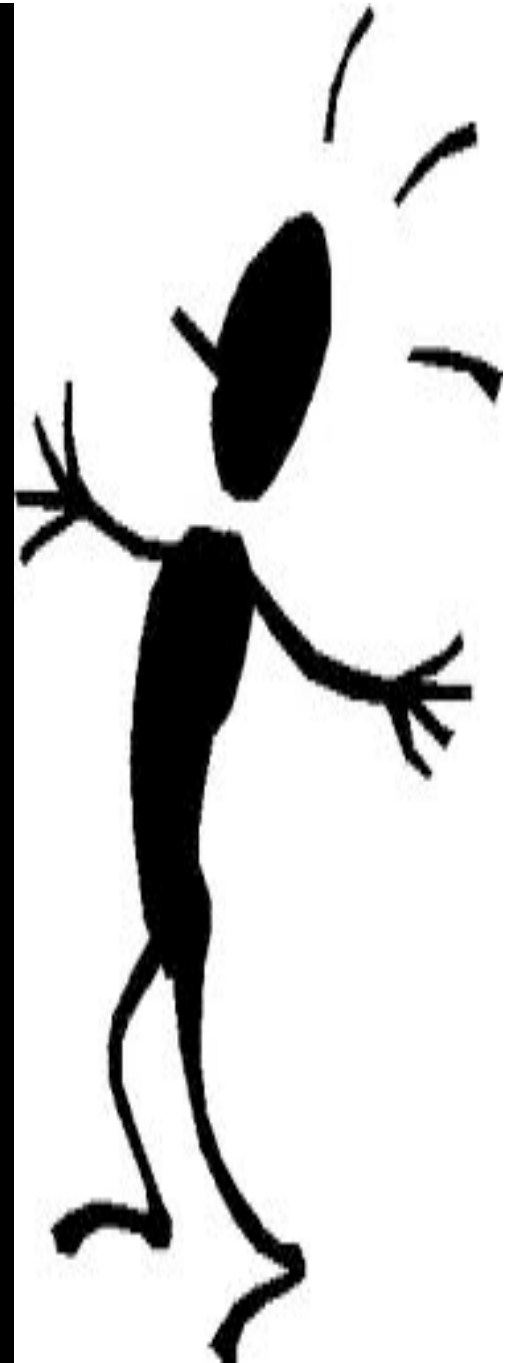
And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:38-45

Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.

Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham:

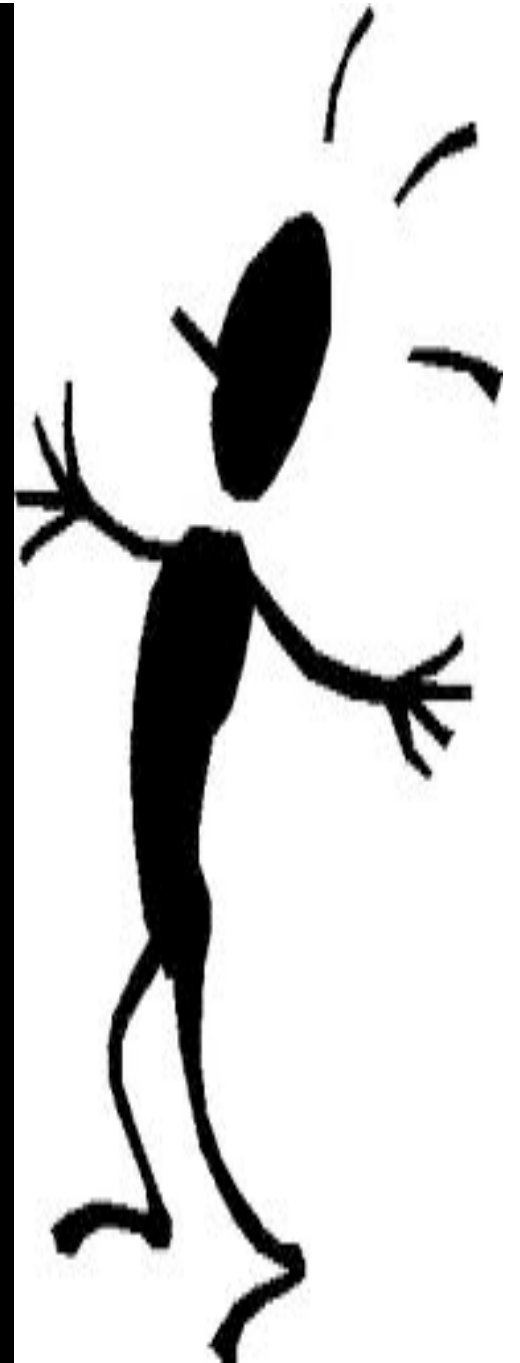
“All nations will be blessed through you.” So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Gal 3



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Gal 3



God has a church for HIS mission rather than a Church with a Mission.

Chris Wright : The mission of God people



I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and **through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed,** Gen 21



## Key Thought

The effective local church is an essential part in God's strategy for the building of the universal church and fulfilling his mission on earth.

Therefore we must not underestimate its importance to the Lord and our commitment to it.





# The Local Church is the Hope of the World

Bill Hybles Willow Creek  
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