

The New Testament also teaches that every believer is to be under the protection and nurture of the leadership of the local church. These godly men can shepherd the believer by encouraging, admonishing, and teaching. Hebrews 13:7 and 17 help us to understand that God has graciously granted accountability to us through godly leadership.

Furthermore, when Paul gave Timothy special instructions about the public meetings, he said, “Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching” (1 Timothy 4:13). Part of the emphasis in public worship includes these three things: hearing the Word, being called to obedience and action through exhortation, and teaching. It is only in the context of the local assembly that these things can most effectively take place.

Acts 2:42 shows us what the early church did when they met together: “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” They learned God’s Word and the implications of it in their lives, they joined to carry out acts of love and service to one another, they commemorated the Lord’s death and resurrection through the breaking of bread, and they prayed. Of course, we can do these things individually, but God has called us into His Body—the church is the local representation of that worldwide Body—and we should gladly minister and be ministered to among God’s people.

Active involvement in your local church is imperative to living a life without compromise. It is only through the ministry of the local church that a believer can receive the kind of teaching, accountability, and encouragement that is necessary for him to stand firm in his convictions. God has ordained that the church provide the kind of environment where an uncompromising life can thrive and His people can grow spiritually.

John MacArthur

#### What could I do at CMBC?

Set up once a month  
 Pack up once or twice a roster  
 Play an instrument  
 Sing a special: group or solo  
 Give a word of testimony  
 Lead a church service  
 Drop fliers /fold fliers  
 Make a meal for the sick  
 Have someone over for coffee  
 Run an errand  
 Give a lift  
 Home hospitality  
 Host a Bible study  
 Learn to preach  
 Help in AWANA/Direct AWANA  
 Attend/serve in Sunday School  
 Attend evening church/help pack up  
 Attend prayer meeting  
 Attend or help lead ladies meeting  
 Lead a mens ministry  
 Lead a care ministry  
 Help in Kid’s church  
 Teach Scripture  
 Encouragement: phone call, cards, emails, SMS, and home visits  
 Door knock  
 Learn to assist in data projection  
 Learn to assist in audio  
 Run our Web site  
 Look after morning cuppa at church  
 Pick up a plate of food and take it round  
 Bring food for morning tea and church lunches  
 Add a ministry that no one has thought of or is doing  
 Talk with someone different every week



# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## DECEMBER 6, 2015

### LOCAL CHURCH

What’s so important about your local church? At a time when there’s more Bible teaching than you could ever consume available through radio, television, and the Internet, why should it matter where and how you’re taking in God’s truth? What’s wrong with virtual, web-based congregations for the digital-age church? Why can’t your iPod be your worship leader, your tablet be your pastor, and your friends your fellowship and accountability?

The answer is simple: that’s not the way God designed it.

The New Testament repeatedly emphasises the importance of local assemblies. In fact, it was the pattern of Paul’s ministry to establish local congregations in the cities where he preached the gospel. Hebrews 10:24-25 commands every believer to be a part of such a local body and reveals why this is necessary.

And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

It is only in the local body to which one is committed that there can be the level of intimacy that is required for carefully stimulating fellow believers “to love and good deeds.” And it is only in this setting that we can encourage one another faithfully and biblically.





# OUR CHURCH FUNCTIONAL OR DYSFUNCTIONAL?

**(Genesis 2:24)**

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

**(Genesis 9:6)**

"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man."

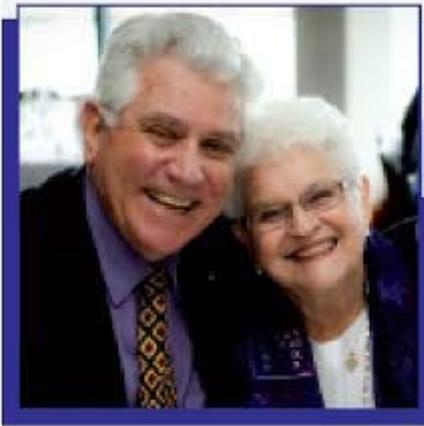
**(Matthew 16:16)** "... You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

**(Matthew 16:18)** "... on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."



In Ephesians 4:11-16 Paul states 2 requirements which need to be fulfilled for any church to be a functioning church:

**1. Committed \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_,** Ephesians 4:1-12, 2:19-20



A previous pastor

**(Ephesians 4:11-12)** "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; {12} For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, ...." [KJV]

**(Ephesians 4:12)** "to prepare God's people for works of service, .."

**(Ephesians 4:12)** For the training of the saints as servants in the church,

**(Ephesians 4:12)** to equip the saints for the work of ministry

**(Ephesians 4:12)** He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service

**(Acts 6:4)** "...but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

**2. A committed \_\_\_\_\_ to do the \_\_\_\_\_,** 4:11-16

Some excuses:

- #1. I don't know what \_\_\_\_\_,
- #2. I served \_\_\_\_\_,
- #3. I have another \_\_\_\_\_,
- #4. I have been \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_,
- #5. My spouse is not \_\_\_\_\_ on this one, **(Matthew 10:37)** "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."
- #6. I don't agree with your \_\_\_\_\_,
- #7. I don't have \_\_\_\_\_, **(Matthew 6:33)** "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."
- #8. This detracts from \_\_\_\_\_,
- #9. I am not \_\_\_\_\_, **(Matthew 28:18-20)** "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. {19} "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen." **(Hebrews 13:17)** "... they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."
- #10. I am not a \_\_\_\_\_, **(Acts 2:41)** "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them." **(Romans 12:5)** "so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

