

The Local Ekklesia Gathering Principles

Jesus told Peter that **He** would build **His** church upon Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16-18). Whenever and wherever two or three believers gather, Jesus is there in His ekklesia (Matthew 18:20). The local ekklesia is where we live out the "one anothers" of Scripture – love one another, bear with one another, forgive one another, etc.

What it is:

- The *Ekklesia* is the called out ones: believers who are called out from the world to the Kingdom of God
- We – believers in Jesus – are the church, the ekklesia
- Universal and local
- Invisible in the Spirit realm and visible in the local church gathering
- Eternal and now
- A gathering of believers expressing Christ in each one for the edification and encouragement of one another
- A circle where all can participate and contribute
- The body of Christ
- One body with many members
- The family of God
- Led by Jesus, not a person; He is the Head
- Overseen by elders
- Experiencing koinonia – diverse community and fellowship of believers and disciples who share and have in common the SAME and ONE love, purpose, mind (phroneo-ing), soul and identity – disciples of Jesus Christ who follow Him and keep His commands

What it is NOT:

- Is not and has never been a building
- Led by one leader or pastor
- Programs and activities to entertain or motivate
- Outreach to or focused on unbelievers (that is the function of the work, not the ekklesia gathering)
- A structured or ritualized program or service
- A "pastor" giving a sermon
- Entertainment or performance
- Required to include "worship" music, announcements, offering, sermon, etc.
- Divided into separate homogenous groups (i.e. children, youth, singles, marrieds, seniors)
- Labeled by denominations
- Focused on numbers or attendance or money
- An organization or business model
- Day care or youth program
- Have a "Sunday School"
- A meeting
- The Work
- All the members socializing with all the other members all the time

Before gathering

- Spend time each day with Jesus, meditating on the commands and stories
- Listen to the Holy Spirit – does He want you to share anything or say anything to the ekklesia?
- Come with the mindset that you are available for Him to use during the ekklesia gathering
- Be actively engaged in a DNA group (when possible)

During

- Jesus is the Head and the center of the ekklesia
- No one person leads the time
- There is no “pastor” or “sermon”
- Worship in Spirit and truth, but not “worship music”
- Music as the Holy Spirit leads someone to bring a song
- It is not a “meeting” but a gathering of the ekklesia
- Numbers are not important, and attendance is not the focus
- The purpose is to manifest Christ in us to edify, build up, comfort, and encourage the ekklesia, one another
- Share out of the overflow, the fruit of spending time alone with Jesus and being in DNA
- The Spirit gives the gifts to be manifested as He directs
- Each one is available for the Spirit to use – for a word, a prophecy, an edification, an insight, a question, a prayer
- Teaching is appropriate, but not limited to just one special person or for the entire time
- Possible for 100% participation
- There is no set or consistent structure or routine, other than listening to the Spirit and following His guidance

After

- Pray for one another as the Spirit leads
- Be available to help and meet needs