

# WHY THE CHURCH IS SO ESSENTIAL

## *Selected Scriptures*

Active membership in a local church is necessary for believers to please God

### LET'S GET STARTED

*Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her* (Ephesians 5:25). No words in Scripture convey more powerfully the great importance of the church. In this message we will explore the reasons why the church is so essential to God's agenda in the world, and why believers need its ministry so much.

### LET'S HEAR THE WORD

The New Testament bears witness to at least four reasons why the church is so essential to God's work in the world:

- **Because God is working \_\_\_\_\_ through the church.**

Matthew 16:18—"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

1 Timothy 3:15—. . . the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

God has designated the church as the primary custodian of Scripture and proclaimer of biblical truth.

- **Because believers need \_\_\_\_\_.**

Acts 2:42—They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching . . .

- **Because believers need \_\_\_\_\_.**

Hebrews 10:25—Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### Quotable

*Building His church is the only thing Christ is doing in the world.*

—Daniel Kirk

*God has a plan. It's the local church. It is plan A, and there is no plan B.*

—Voddie Baucham

### If you would like to know more

*To Be or Not to Be a Church Member?, That Is the Question!*, by Wayne Mack, Calvary Press Publishing, 2004

# WHY THE CHURCH IS SO ESSENTIAL (selected Scripture)

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- **Because believers need** \_\_\_\_\_.

Galatians 6:1-2—<sup>1</sup> Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Colossians 3:16— . . . teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, . . .

James 5:16—Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. . . .

## LET'S LIVE IT

Ways you can affirm the importance of the church:

- **You can say it by your** \_\_\_\_\_.
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- **You can say it by your** \_\_\_\_\_.