

DO WE EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM THE LOCAL CHURCH?

DO WE NOT EXPECT ENOUGH?

DO WE EXPECT THE WRONG TYPES OF THINGS?



"These things say He... Who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands." (Rev 2:1)
"the seven lampstands are the seven churches" (Rev 1:20)

The local church is supposed to stop false doctrines



- Ephesus – “cannot tolerate evil men” (2:2)
- Pergamum (failed) – “hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans” (2:15)
- Thyatira (failed) – “tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess” (2:20)
- Philadelphia – “have kept My word, and have not denied My name” (3:8)

1 Tim 3:15 “pillar and ground of the truth”

Tit 1:10-11 Purpose of elders

The local church is company for suffering soldiers



- Ephesus – “you have perseverance and have endured” (2:3)
- Smyrna – “I know your tribulations and your poverty” (2:9)
- Pergamum – “did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you” (2:13)
- Thyatira – “I know your . . . perseverance” (2:19)
- Philadelphia – “because you have kept the word of My perseverance” (3:10)

Heb. 10:24-25 “not forsaking the assembling... but encouraging one another”

The local church is good at helping us love to work



- Ephesus – “I know your deeds” (2:2) “left your first love” (2:4)
- Thyatira – “I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.” (2:19)
- Sardis (failed) – “I know your deeds that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.” (3:1-2)
- Philadelphia – “I know your deeds . . . because you have a little power, and have kept My word.” (3:8)
- Laodicea (failed) – “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot . . .” (3:15-16)

Eph 4:12 “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service”

The local church isn't a replacement for individual faith



Rev. 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ³ Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. ⁴ **You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.** ⁵ He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.'"