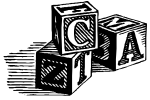


Acts 2:12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another,

"What Does This Mean?"

Response Questions for, "The Centrality of the Local Church in the Mission of God," (Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17).



Basic Ideas concerning Centrality.

The Holy Spirit is calling to us from this passage to consider three ideas.

1. The Holy Spirit desires for us to know Christ as the head and His body as the church.
2. The Holy Spirit desires for us to choose to love Christ and His church.
3. The Holy Spirit desires for us to feel the joy of serving Christ in and through His church.



Basic Questions concerning Centrality.

1. What is meant by the word "ecclesia"?
2. From what are we called and to what are we called?
3. What does the idea of "flock" communicate?
4. Are shepherds over all the flock of God or is their responsibilities and duties "flock" specific? How do you support your answer?
5. How would you define what is meant by the word "church"?
6. What makes a local church different than a para-church ministry? Explain your answer.
7. Are shepherds responsible for all sheep and are sheep under all shepherds? Explain your answer.
8. Are elders and deacons offices within the church universal or only in the context of a local church? Explain your answer.
9. What are three marks of a biblical community?
10. How has a generic view of the church hurt the local idea?
11. Why might it be easier to love the church universal and more difficult to love the church local?
12. Why might the NT commands be directed more toward the local church and not primarily for the church universal?
13. How do the words independent and inter-dependent fit together?
14. Why should local churches be indigenous and what are the potential dangers of a church not being indigenous?



Basic Application concerning Centrality.

1. Are you a part of a local church community?
2. Have you sensed and do you feel the protection of a believing community to whom you are responsible and for whom you are responsible?
3. Do you have an identifiable shepherd?
4. What place does this local church have in your life?
5. I've said this before and I will repeat it again. If this local church is not to your liking, then by all means find one that is. But for you to drift from church to church is an anomaly that is inconsistent with the New Testament record.

Waukesha Bible Church is a family of families seeking to live in **the Storyline of the Bible**. She is determined by design to have a **God-centered, Christ-exalting worship; a Word-centered teaching** focused on personal **discipleship** through intentional and systematic instruction; a **Global-impacting mission** that resolves to be a **church planting church**; and a **Grace-based fellowship** where disciples are invited to live under a **reigning grace** characterized by a **Gospel-driven sanctification** that celebrates a divine **monergism** to the Christian life.