

Lesson 12: The Local Body at LCC

Who we are

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:1-2)

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7 ESV)

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV)

*“For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”
(Hebrews 10:14 ESV)*

*“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses”
(Colossians 2:13 ESV)*

We are the body of Christ locally known as Lexington Community Church. The word ‘community’ was chosen not because our facilities are located in the Lexington Community, but because the Greek word for Church is ‘ecclesia,’ which can also be translated as ‘community.’ We are the ‘called out community’ of believers that God has placed in this local body as it pleased him.

We live our lives in worship to God because he has redeemed us from our sins through his shed blood. We were once dead in our trespasses

and sins, but God made us alive in Christ Jesus. We were made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus because Jesus, who was sinless, drank fully the wrath of God toward us as condemned sinners. He has brought us from life to death, and so we live to worship him.

LCC's Mission

Our mission is to glorify God by following his instruction: To evangelize, disciple, and equip the body for the work of the ministry.

*"¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
(Matthew 28:19-20 ESV)*

*"to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ"
(Ephesians 4:12 ESV)*

What We Believe

- **The Holy Scriptures:** We believe the Holy Scriptures are our rule for faith and practice as they were breathed out by the Holy Spirit into the hearts of men who then penned God's Word as he instructed them.
- **God is Triune:** We believe there is one God: infinite, eternal, almighty, and perfect in holiness, truth and love. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are co-existent, co-equal, and co-eternal. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, yet each is truly Deity.
- **God the Father:** He is determinate, and the Creator of the world and all that is in it. He determined to create man in his image out of dust by

breathing life into him. He rules over his creation. He sent his Son to redeem men from their sins. He is holy and just while being loving, gracious, merciful, and kind.

- **Jesus Christ:** He is the only begotten Son of God who came down out of heaven to take on flesh. He is truly God and truly man. While being equal with the Father, he made himself of no reputation and submitted himself to the will of the Father, being obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. He shed his blood for the sins of the world and rose from the dead to show that God has power over sin, death, and the grave. He has defeated the works of the devil and one day will lock Satan and his minions up in hell forever.

- **The Holy Spirit:** He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement. He draws men to the Father with the gospel message and permanently indwells all believers. The Holy Spirit seeks to glorify Jesus and only shares those things that Jesus tells him to share. He leads the Church in all truth.

- **Man:** Was made in the image of God, in order that we might have fellowship with the Father. But man, when tempted, rebelled against God and was judged by God. Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit drawing sinful men to God through the Lord Jesus Christ, depraved man will eternally be separated from the love and grace of God. Depraved man is at enmity with God, hostile toward God, and hateful to God.

- **Gospel:** The good news of Jesus Christ; his life, his death, his resurrection, and his ascension. While Jesus' crucifixion is the heart of the gospel, his resurrection is the power of the gospel, and his ascension is the glory of the gospel. Christ's sacrifice satisfied God's wrath on man's sin while revealing God's amazing love and grace for mankind. There is no other name on earth whereby man can be saved than by the name of Jesus Christ.

· **Man's response to the Gospel:** Man can only respond to God as they are led by the Holy Spirit. God initiates the relationship with each individual whom he has chosen to salvation. While the gospel is preached to all mankind, only those who are called will come to accept and receive the good news.

· **Man's inheritance through the Gospel:** We who were enemies of God are now the children of God...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but by Christ's righteousness God declares us righteous. While we wait for our eternal home, we celebrate our relationship with God as we worship him.

· **Sanctification:** The Holy Spirit is the agent whereby we are daily conformed into the image of Jesus Christ. The Spirit takes the Word of Truth and directs us in it in accordance with God's plan for our lives. The Holy Spirit softens our hearts and renews our minds so that we can learn to rest in Christ and enjoy God's love. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, then, God's people can worship God with their lives, learning to love God and love their neighbor...all to the glory of God!

· **Empowered by the Spirit:** We received all the Holy Spirit we will ever have on the day of our salvation. The Holy Spirit gives each believer gifts by which the body of Christ, the Church, is edified. As we walk in the Spirit, yielding to him, he empowers and directs how we should use our gifts for God's glory and the benefit of others.

· **The Church:** A called out assembly, whether one is talking about the Universal Church, which is made up of all Christians of all times, or whether one is talking about the local church. The Church, made up of believers who have experienced the power of regeneration, is the Bride of Christ. The Church exists to glorify God and to represent God here on earth. God gives the Church body leaders to train them for the work of the ministry, in order that the Church would be a witness for God.

- **Baptism:** Is for the individual who has experienced true salvation in Christ Jesus. The Apostle Paul taught that the new believer dies to self through baptism so that they can walk in newness of life just as Christ did when he rose from the grave. Baptism for the believer is a declaration that they have experienced the power of regeneration. Baptism is necessary for church membership.
- **The Lord's Supper:** Is to be observed by those who have trusted in Christ for eternal life. Observance of the Lord's Supper is a memorial to remember and reflect on the cost that Christ paid in order to redeem sinful and fallen man.
- **The Consummation:** Includes the visible, personal, and glorious return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the translation of those alive in Christ, the judgement of the just and the unjust, and the fulfillment of Christ's kingdom in the new heavens and the new earth. In the Consummation, Satan and all his demons will be eternally judged and condemned to the Lake of Fire while the righteous enjoy eternal life with God. The Church will live and reign with him forever, enjoying and worshiping God forever.

What we do

- **We worship:** Assembling together to encourage and exhort each other as we partake together in the worship of God through the teaching and preaching of God's Word, fellowship, singing, prayer, giving, baptism, and the Lord's supper.

"²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet 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 ESV)

“⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47 ESV)

· **We live as a community and build authentic relationships through:**

- Small groups
- Bible studies
- Accountability
- Discipleship
- Service

*“ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”
(Philippians 2:1-4 ESV)*

· **We actively contribute by:**

- Taking ownership – we are all a necessary and important part of the local body
- Being a member of the church
- Using gifts for the benefit of others
- Looking to be used by God to build each other up

- Supporting God's work with resources; with finances, time, and energy

"¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:12-13 ESV)

"But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body." (1 Corinthians 12:18-20 ESV)

"But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." (1 Corinthians 12:24b-26 ESV)

· **We seek the lost:**

"¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20 ESV)

We seek the lost by embracing God's design for a healthy church; proclaiming and living out the truth and beauty of the Gospel.

"To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through

the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”
(Ephesians 3:8-10 ESV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out (express) your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world”
(Philippians 2:12-15 ESV)

*“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, **that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.** ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”* (1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV)