



**The Local Church**  
**The Church Is A Team!**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. In the story of creation we are first introduced to the truth that God is a trinity. God said let us make man in our own image. (Gen. 1:26). From that point forward in the bible we discover that there is one God who eternally exists as three persons who are co-equal and share the same substance.

There are numerous revelations of the trinity in both the old and new testaments.

In the incarnation story, we see the trinity working together to bring about the birth of Jesus.

- God the Father sent the angel Gabriel to make the announcement to Mary that she would conceive the Son of God.
- God the Spirit conceived the physical body for the Son of God within Mary.
- God the Son emptied Himself and put on that physical body within the womb of Mary and became the Son of Man.

In the baptism of Jesus God blessed the ministry of Jesus and confirmed the deity of Jesus.

- God the Father pronounced His blessing upon God the Son
- God the Spirit descended upon God the Son like a dove
- God the Son fulfilled all righteousness by being baptized in water.

In the trinity, we see God as one God but we also see God as a team. The idea of team did not originate with man but originated with God. One God eternally exists as three persons and they work together as a team to fulfill their divine purposes.

When God created man, He created man in His own image. This team concept was a part of the image that God created in man. There was within the nature of man this innate desire to work with others as a team. Before the creation of the first woman there was a problem. There was no living creature that was suitable to work as a team with the first man.

God gave the first man the authority to have dominion over the earth. But there was no one of like kind to help him fulfill his purpose. So, God created the first woman out of the first man so that they could work as a team to fulfill God's purpose. Adam and Eve, created in the image of God, became the first team on the earth.

After the fall of man, whenever God had a divine purpose for man, He called man to work together as a team to accomplish His purpose.

- [Noah and his family](#)
- [Abraham and Sarah](#)
- [Moses, Aaron, Hur, and Joshua](#)
- [Nehemiah and the nation of Israel](#)

When Jesus began His public ministry, He chose 12 men to be His disciples to help Him accomplish His divine purpose. They were His team.

Jesus made it clear to His disciples that their purpose was to make disciples.

[Matthew 4:19](#)

[19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."](#)

[NKJV](#)

Jesus made it known to His disciples that their success in the fulfillment of their mission to make disciples could only succeed through a new team that He would eventually build called the church.

[Matthew 16:18](#)

[18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.](#)

[NKJV](#)

This new team Jesus called the church was to be organized wherever and whenever people believed in Jesus and became disciples of Jesus.

Before the ascension of Jesus, Jesus told 120 of His disciples not to return to their homes but to stay together as a team until they received the promise of the Holy Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost, 3000 people were converted and they all joined the 120 to become the first team officially called the church (Acts 2:47).

When the apostles began to travel outside of Jerusalem to share the gospel they did not just travel from place to place winning new converts. Wherever they went and people converted, the apostles fulfilled the call of Jesus to organize a team called the church that would help new disciples grow into mature disciples of Jesus.



This is the first lesson I want you to learn in our new series about the local church. If you are in Christ, the Holy Spirit has created within the nature of your soul an innate desire to work together with others to fulfill your divine purpose and the team that God is calling you to work with is the local church.

During this new series called the local church I want to answer these questions from God's Word.

What is the main purpose of this team?

How does this team work together to fulfill its main purpose?

What is every member's role on this team?

How do I become a team player on this team?

What are the greatest challenges I will face to become a team player?

A team by definition is...

"A group of individuals who come together and make personal sacrifices to achieve a common goal."

I have personally had the privilege of being a part of some great teams. My ninth-grade baseball team won 34 games in row. I was a pitcher on that team and played second base. Our only loss was in our last game in the state finals.

When I was a freshman in college my basketball team at OBU made it to the finals of the district 9 playoffs. The district 9 was one of the most difficult districts in NAIA basketball. I was a point guard on that team.

While I was at OBU, I was a part of a campus ministry team called the BSU that had an incredible impact on the students of our university.

Debbie and I formed a great team for leading our family for nearly 30 years and for the last 8 years Sandra and I have been a great team for leading our blended family.

Since I have been on the staff at Western Hills for over 32 years, I have had the privilege of working together with some great teams of people that work together on our staff.

For the last 3 years, I have had the privilege of working as a team with the board of Kimray corporation. That team has guided the company through some of the most difficult years in Kimray's 69-year history.

For over 2 years, Sandra and I have been a part of a team that meets each week in our home that is an extension of our local church. It is a team within the team. It is a small group currently made up of 12 adults whose purpose is to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

It has been for me the most fulfilling and satisfying experience that I have ever had on any team in the church.

So, what must change for the local church to become the kind of team that Jesus intends for it to be?

There certainly needs to be some major changes in the organization of the local church!

We are going to talk about those changes in the next few weeks as we answer the questions that I intend to answer. These are changes that we have been making as a local church for several years and we are still making them.

But for the local church to become the kind of team that Jesus intends for it to be, the greatest changes that need to be made are not organizational. They are changes that need to happen in me and in you.

Today, would you invite the Lord Jesus to help you make those changes? Would you say to the Lord Jesus, make me a team player on your team? Would you say, help me find my role? Would you say, change whatever needs to be changed in my heart for me to serve your team the way you want me to serve it?