

# UNPACKING THE CHURCH:

## CLEARING UP CONFUSION

### UNDERSTANDING SOME BASICS

#### What is the Nature of the Church?

1. It is invisible, yet visible.

*The invisible church is the church as God sees it.*

*The visible church is the church as we (believers) see it.*

Matthew 13:24-43    2 Timothy 2:16-19    1 John 2:19

Why is it important to understand the distinction between the invisible and visible church?

2. It is universal, yet local.

*The universal church is the community of all true believers for all time.*

Matthew 16:18    Ephesians 5:25

Are we able to participate in the universal church now?

*“A local church is a group of Christians who regularly gather in Christ’s name to officially affirm and oversee one another’s membership in Jesus Christ and his kingdom through gospel preaching and gospel ordinances.”*

“Local” = Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Revelation 2-3

“Affirming” = Matthew 18:1-6; Acts 9:26-27

“Overseeing” = Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1-2; 1 Peter 5:1-3

*The gathering of the universal church is something we are meant to **anticipate**.*

*The gathering of the local church is something we are meant to **experience**.*

Why is it so important to be vitally connected to a local church?

## **What “Generates” the Church?**

1. What is meant by “generation”?

John 3:3-6

Cf. Ezekiel 37:1-14

2. How does the gospel generate the church?

Romans 10:14

1 John 1:1-3

What implications does this have for the way we do evangelism?

## **How are we united to one another?**

1. We are united to and by Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-14

1 John 1:1-3

2. We share in the same life and in the same Spirit.

John 1:12-13 and 3:4-8

Romans 8:9

3. We share the same “teaching”.

Ephesians 4:4-6 and 11-16

2 Timothy 1:13

How might this affect how we relate to one another in comparison to how we relate to unbelievers?