

Answers!

Lesson #13

Question #25: **Is “home church” a substitute for the local church?**

Answer: **No, not by today’s definition and practice.**

Key verse:

Hebrews 10:24-25, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Definitions:

Today’s definition of “**home church**” is where a family gathers in their home and has Bible time, prayer time, hymn singing, etc. This would be better called “family devotions” or a “family altar” and every home should have that.

The Biblical word “**church**” is a group of people who are saved, baptized and called out of the world to assemble together. They continue in the Apostle’s doctrine, fellowship, eating together, caring for each other, reaching souls, praising God, baptizing, and edifying one another (see **Acts 2:41-47**). The local churches’ mission is two-fold:

1. The edification of the saints
2. The evangelism of the sinners

Observation:

The Home Church movement of today is nothing like the Biblical Church. Today’s home churches have no pastors, deacons, teachers, evangelists, assemblies, evangelism, baptisms, discipleship, tithing, offerings, missionaries sent, churches planted, etc. They are under no Pastors, elders or bishops (**Hebrews 13:7,17,24**).

The church is to gather somewhere – “If therefore the whole church be come together in one place ...” (**1 Corinthians 14:23a**)

The churches of the Bible would gather at the Temple, synagogues or houses large enough for an assembly: **Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2**.

Further Notes:

Answers!

Lesson #13

Question #26: **Is the “digital church” a substitute for the local church?**

Answer: **No, but it can compliment the ministry of the local church and reach around the world.**

Key verses:

Psalm 68:11, “The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.”

Acts 13:49, “And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.”

Definition:

The “**digital church**” is a newer term used by some who do not attend a local church, but instead watch pastors on television, YouTube, livestreaming, etc., and listen to Christian radio and podcasts.

Observation:

These digital tools can be greatly used for the evangelization of the lost, and edification of the saints. They can especially help in areas of the world that are hostile to the gospel, and to Christ. Many who live in countries that barely allow freedom of religion, assembly, or speech, can be helped through tv, internet, and radio. These tools can also help those who are sick or shut-in, or believers who live in free countries, but do not live near a good church. They can further be useful when one is dealing with inclement weather or providentially hindered from attending church.

But as we saw under the last question, the word “church” means “a called-out assembly.” We are to be members of a church, find our spiritual gift(s), and use them to edify our brother and sisters in Christ. We cannot do that from home. How will we know how to pray for the brethren? Show them our love? Bear their burdens? Who will fulfil our ministries? How will we support the Lord’s local ministry and missionaries around the world if we don’t know of them?

Further Notes:
