

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

— *Lorton* —

Genesis 2:18

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.”

Genesis 12:2

**I will make you into a great nation,
I will bless you, I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.**

Genesis 17:7-8

I will confirm my covenant that is between me and you and your future offspring throughout their generations. It is a permanent covenant to be your God and the God of your offspring after you... and I will be their God."

Exodus 1:7

But the Israelites were fruitful, increased rapidly, multiplied, and became extremely numerous so that the land was filled with them.

Exodus 3:10

I am sending you to Pharaoh so that you may lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.

Exodus 6:6-7

I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from the forced labor of the Egyptians and rescue you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you as my people, and I will be your God...

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race," a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises" of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Main Idea

This morning we'll consider two important questions that every follower of Jesus Christ:

Why does the church matter?

Why does belonging to a local church matter?

Matthew 16:18

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Ephesians 2:19-21

...you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 3:11

For no one can lay any foundation other than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 28:16

Therefore the Lord GOD said: “Look, I have laid a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; the one who believes will be unshakable.

Colossians 1:16-18

For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and by him all things hold together.

¹⁸ He is also the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

1 Timothy 3:14-15

I write these things to you, hoping to come to you soon. ¹⁵ But if I should be delayed, I have written so that you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Acts 20:27

I did not avoid declaring to you the whole plan of God.

Acts 2:41-42

So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

2 Corinthians 8:5

...they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us by God's will.

In the next place, follow this example, and give yourself to the church. You that are members of the church have not found it perfect, and I hope that you feel almost glad that you have not. If I had never joined a church till I had found one that was perfect, I should never have joined one at all; and the moment I did join it, if I had found one, I should have spoiled it, for it would not have been a perfect church after I had become a member of it. Still, imperfect as it is, it is the dearest place on earth to us. *Charles Spurgeon*