



# FINDING A LOCAL CHURCH

*A helpful guide  
to get you started*

Key Radio strongly encourages you to find a local body of believers who can come alongside you and help you learn and grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ. But we also understand that finding a church can be a very daunting task. For this reason, we suggest three fundamental characteristics to look for that will put you on the right path to finding a good church: Doctrine. The Christian Life. Evangelism.



*Life* unlocked, *truth* unleashed.

# WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A LOCAL CHURCH



## Doctrine

Proclaiming Biblical truth, with a high view of God is essential.  
The church should believe and teach:

- ☐ The Bible is the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of the living God.
- ☐ Jesus Christ is fully God, fully man, and the second member of the Trinity.
- ☐ Jesus is virgin-born, bodily resurrected, and will return.
- ☐ Man is sinful and in need of reconciliation to God.
- ☐ Jesus died a sacrificial, atoning, substitutionary, all-sufficient death for payment for our sins and the only means of reconciliation to God.
- ☐ Man is saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
- ☐ Heaven and hell are real places.



## The Christian Life

The local church should equip believers for living a life of service to God, and build and strengthen their faith to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord and consistent with scripture. A good church:

- ☐ Emphasizes the importance of both corporate and personal prayer.
- ☐ Encourages personal study of the Bible.
- ☐ Worships reverently, joyfully, prayerfully, and Biblically.
- ☐ Fosters and encourages believers to learn, worship and demonstrate generosity as a community.
- ☐ Serves one another.

# 3 Evangelism

The local church should demonstrate a concern for bringing lost souls to Christ.

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The Bible should be faithfully preached.

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Members should seek to live as ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

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The church should have a strong missionary outreach, a global concern for the lost.

## SO LET'S GET STARTED

Here are some steps to finding out if a local church is right for you.

1. Pray – Seek God's counsel.
2. Search on-line – Try to find churches in your area, where the driving distance won't discourage you from attending.
3. Check out their doctrine statement. Do their teachings agree with those listed here?
  - ✓ Doctrine?
  - ✓ The Christian Life?
  - ✓ Evangelism?
4. Attend a service or two.
5. Talk to the pastor and members of the congregation. Do they seem to live what they teach? Do they seem to demonstrate genuine love and care toward one another? Is there a spirit of joy and unity?
6. Pray again.

Remember: There is no perfect church. Excepting doctrinal issues, if you find a church that possesses most, but not all the characteristics, don't immediately disregard it. Perhaps God wants you to strengthen that church body with your own gifts and talents!



Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NASB)



## Other Helpful Resources

For a more in-depth look into how to choose a good church home, try these resources:

Alistair Begg, Truth for Life:

<http://blog.truthforlife.org/alistair-begg-on-finding-a-church>

John MacArthur, Grace to You:

<http://www.gty.org/resources/questions/QA121/what-should-i-look-for-when-choosing-a-new-church-home>

RBC Ministries – Free PDF Download

<http://web001.rbc.org/pdf/discovery-series/how-to-recognize-a-good-church.pdf>

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307 S 1600 W Provo, UT 84601  
855-539-4583

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