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# **“CHRIST CALLS HIS CHURCH” & CHRIST GATHERS HIS CHURCH”**

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**London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689  
Chapter 26, paragraphs 5 & 6**

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# REVIEW

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- 1. There is a universal, invisible church consisting of all who have been, are, or will be saved.**
  - 2. Visible, local churches are subsets of this larger, invisible church. Therefore, all members of local churches should be saved, regenerated believers.**
  - 3. Visible, local churches are never perfect. When a church begins to organize itself according to its own ideas and wishes, it begins a decline that will ultimately result in it being no true church at all.**
  - 4. Christ alone is Head of the Church, and He is the only One who has the right to tell us how the church should worship, and be organized.**
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# **I. JESUS CHRIST USES HIS AUTHORITY TO CALL HIS CHURCH**

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5. “In the execution of this power wherewith He is so entrusted, the Lord Jesus calls out of the world unto Himself, through the ministry of His Word, by His Spirit, those that are given unto Him by His Father, that they may walk before Him in all the ways of obedience, which He prescribes to them in His Word. Those thus called, He commands to walk together in particular societies, or churches, for their mutual edification, and the due performance of that public worship, which He requires of them in the world.”

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**Q: What are some theological points of this paragraph?**

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# I. JESUS CHRIST USES HIS AUTHORITY TO CALL HIS CHURCH

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- ◆ John 10:16 (NKJV): “And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”
  - ◆ John 12:32 (NKJV): “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”
    - “All” -
    - “Draw” -
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# I. JESUS CHRIST USES HIS AUTHORITY TO CALL HIS CHURCH

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- ♦ John 5:19,21,22,25 (NKJV): “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner... 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. 22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son... 25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.”
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## II. CHRIST GATHERS LOCAL CHURCHES: MEMBERSHIP IN NT

**I.** In the execution of this power wherewith He is so entrusted,  
**the Lord Jesus calls...** those that are given unto Him by His Father,  
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**II.** **Those thus called, He commands to walk together**  
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## **II. CHRIST GATHERS LOCAL CHURCHES - MEMBERSHIP IN NT**

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- Galatians 6:10 - “family”
  - Acts 15:22 - “the whole church” gathers
  - Acts 2:41, 47 - added
  - Acts 5:11-14 -
  - Acts 20:28-29; 1 Peter 5:1-5 - the flock
  - Matthew 18:15 ff - “the church”
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## II. CHRIST GATHERS LOCAL CHURCHES: Benefits of Membership - *Mutual Edification*

- **Ephesians 4:15b-16** — “... may grow up into Him, who is the head — Christ — from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

— The “one anothers” of the NT

- **John 15:17** — “... love one another.”
- **Romans 15:14** — “... admonish one another....”
- **1Cor. 12:5** — “... have the same care for one another...”
- **Gal. 5:13** — “... by love serve one another.”
- **Gal. 6:2** — “Bear one another’s burdens....”
- **Eph. 5:19** — “speaking to one another in psalms, hymns...”
- **1Thess. 4:18** — “Comfort one another” (re: death)

## II. CHRIST GATHERS LOCAL CHURCHES: Benefits of Membership - *Worship*

- **Acts 19:8-10** — “And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.”
- **1Corinthians 11:18, 20, 23** — “For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.... Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.... For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread....”

## II. CHRIST GATHERS LOCAL CHURCHES: Benefits of Membership - *Worship*

- **1Peter 2:4-5** — “Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”
- **Hebrews 10:24-25** — “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

# APPLICATIONS

1. The benefits of “one another-ing” are only found in the family of the church.
2. Worship, by definition, is a corporate work.

*“... Where two or three are gathered together in My name....”*