

Why We Have House-Churches



Community Bible Church



What is a House-Church?

The Church (capital "C") - the Body of Christ, is NOT a religious institution. It is about relationships. It is all about learning how to have a Love relationship with God and with people. It should also be noted that our ability to Love God is directly tied to our ability to love others. →

House-church (h-ous' chur-ch') *n.* 1.A church that meets in a house. 2.A home-base assembly of believers. 3.Whenever two or more Christians gather to fulfill the scriptural commands for the church (the one-another commands) and they decide to meet in a house.

House-churches are seen throughout the book of Acts and in the NT. They are consistent with way that Jesus worked with His Disciples. It also appears to be the best place for people to learn how to love one-another and God, to grow in faith, to learn from each-other and to seek to learn how to live-out the "one-another" commands for the Church. We have chosen to call these groups, "House-Churches" following the pattern of the early church. A house-church is usually a group of no more that 15 persons.

Matthew 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

1 John 1:5-7 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1John 2:9-11 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Look at the Biblical Basis for having House-Churches

1 House-Churches follow the model of how Christ worked with His Disciples

Jesus chose to work with a small group.

Luke 6:12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve.



This group was the right size to promote authentic learning experiences.

Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."

Matthew 13:36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

Luke 11:1 Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

Authentic learning is initiated by the learner who is seeking to find an answer.

2 A House-church is a great place to help each other to grow in FAITH.

Matthew 8:23-27 And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

(See Also: Matthew 6:27-30, Matthew 8:6-10 & Matthew 21:21-22)

In the Gospels, Christ is constantly using circumstances to help His disciples to grow in faith.



The Apostle Paul confirms the importance of growing in faith.

Romans 1:11-12 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you-- that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

3 House-churches are the best fulfill the “one- another” commands of scripture.

God’s commands for the church take the form of the “one-another” statements of scripture.

John 15:12,13 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends”

Although it is true that we should follow these commands in our relationships with all of our Christian brothers and sisters, the best place to learn how to do these things is in a small-group setting - a small fellowship of believers.

- Love One Another
- Live in Harmony with One Another (Not Judging)
- Welcome One Another
- Instruct One Another
- Greet One Another - Warmly
- Wait for One Another
- Care for One Another
- Have Humility Toward One Another
- Comfort One Another
- Agree With One Another
- Serve One Another
- Bear One Another’s Burdens
- Bear With One Another
- Forgive One Another
- Be Kind to One Another
- Teach and Admonish One Another
- Have Fellowship With One Another
- Address One Another with Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs
- Submit to One Another
- Encourage One Another
- Do Good To One Another
- Exhort One Another
- Confess To One Another
- Pray For One Another
- Show Hospitality To One Another

How would the Body of Christ be different if people chose to devote themselves to learning how to do these things?

4 House-Churches follow the example of the first-century church

Acts 5:42 Every day, in the temple and at home, they never stopped teaching and preaching Jesus, the Christ.

When Saul persecuted the church where did he look?

Acts 8:3 But Saul ravaged the assembly, entering into every house, and dragged both men and women off to prison.

When Peter was freed from prison where did he look for the church?

Acts 12:12 Thinking about that, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

Acts 16:40 They went out of the prison, and entered into Lydia’s house. When they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them, and departed.

Romans 16:5 Greet the assembly that is in their house. Greet Epaphroditus, my beloved, who is the first fruits of Achaia to Christ.

Colossians 4:15 Greet the brothers who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the assembly that is in his house.

A picture of a house-church meeting when the Apostle Paul came to visit.

Acts 20:7-11 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.

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