

An aerial photograph of a tropical island, likely in the Philippines, featuring a prominent limestone karst peak covered in dense green forest. A white sandy beach curves along the base of the island, meeting clear turquoise water. The surrounding sea is a deep blue. The text "God's Holy People Don't Live on an Island" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

God's Holy People Don't Live
on an Island

The Universal Church

- At salvation we become part of a worldwide body of the saved. Hebrews 12:22-24
- What if we were on our own at this point?
- What if we had to study, worship, and serve in isolation?
- God doesn't want us to live on an island.

Local Churches

- Disciples met together from the beginning.
Acts 2:42-47; 5:12
- There came to be groups in various cities.
1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Thes. 1:1
- All had the same organization and teachings.
Acts 14:23; 16:4, 5; 1 Cor. 4:17

The Work of Local Churches

- Met for worship. Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11, 14
- Engaged in teaching. Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 14
- Supported preachers. 1 Cor. 9:14; Phil. 4
- Encouraged one another. Heb. 10:24, 25
- Disciplined the unruly. 1 Cor. 5; 2 Thes. 3
- Assisted needy saints. Acts 4, 11; Rom. 15

Opportunity to Worship

- Churches prayed, sang, and ate the Lord's Supper together.
- Singing together teaches and admonishes. Col. 3:16
- The Lord's Supper. 1 Cor. 11:33; 10:17
 - Have benefitted from words spoken, prayers offered, the reflection of others.

Opportunity to Worship

- **Worshiping together brings responsibilities.**
 - I need to be present. Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25
 - Am I cheating others and myself out of the benefit of worshiping together?
 - Do I sing with enthusiasm?
 - If a leader, do I think about what I'm doing and seek to do my best?

Teaching

- The word of God is vital to our spiritual well-being. Rom. 10:17; Acts 20:32
- I was blessed to have heard good preaching during my formative years.
- I had some good teachers.
- Two key points:
 - Teachers need students.
 - Teachers need dedication.

Discipline

- The erring are to be corrected (Gal. 6:1, 2; James 5:19, 20).
- Strong measures must sometimes be taken. 2 Thes. 3:14; 1 Cor. 5
- Growing up around discipline helped me...
 - Learn the importance of obedience. Heb. 5:8, 9
 - To have the proper fear. Deut. 13:11
 - By eliminating some destructive influences. 1 Cor. 5:6, 7

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- Discipline is a church action that depends upon individual cooperation.

Encouragement

- Heb. 10:24-25
- “Greet one another.” Rom. 16:16; 1 Pet. 5:14
- Practice hospitality. 1 Pet. 4:8-9
- Be present.
 - Don’t fail to see the encouragement that your presence can mean.
- Be a Barnabas.

Conclusion

- While no group of saints is perfect, a local church can be a force for good.
- Be that powerful force for good in the lives of members, your children, and your community.
- Don't live on an island. Eph. 4:16
- Have you accepted God's salvation?

