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.
• 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
Discipline

- 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

- 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?