Word "Church" is used in 2 primary ways in the Bible 1. Universal Sense

Made up of all who respond to the gospel, Acts 8:36-39 *Lord Adds* to this body, upon obedience to gospel, Acts 2:47 Rescued from Darkness to Light, 1 Peter 2:9-10

Word "Church" is used in 2 primary ways in the Bible

2. Local Sense

Church at Laodicea

Church at Jerusalem

Church at Ephesus

Church at Philippi

Word "Church" is used in 2 primary ways in the Bible

2. Local Sense

Distinct, Identifiable Gatherings

Autonomous (Self-Governing), Yet United in One Brotherhood

All Abiding by Same Doctrine, Not Differing Doctrines, 1 Cor. 4:17; 1 Cor. 1:10; Acts 15:22-29; Jn. 17:17; Eph. 4:11-16

The Local Church Seeks to Pursue Scriptural Organization Elders, Bishops, Overseers, Pastors (Synonymous for Same Office) **Deacons Serve Under Elders** Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9

The Local Church "Listens" & "Speaks" as a Group Matthew 18:15-17

V. 17 "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to **the church**. But if he refuses even to hear **the church**, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector."

The Local Church Can Send Letters, Gifts, & Messengers as a Unit 1 Cor. 16:3; Acts 11:22; Phil. 4:15-19 1 Cor. 16:3, "And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem." Acts 11:22, "Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas..."

The Local Church Can Discipline as a Unit **1 Corinthians 5:1-13**

V. 4-5, "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, **delver such a one to Satan** for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved..."

How is One Added To or Taken From A Local Church Listing?

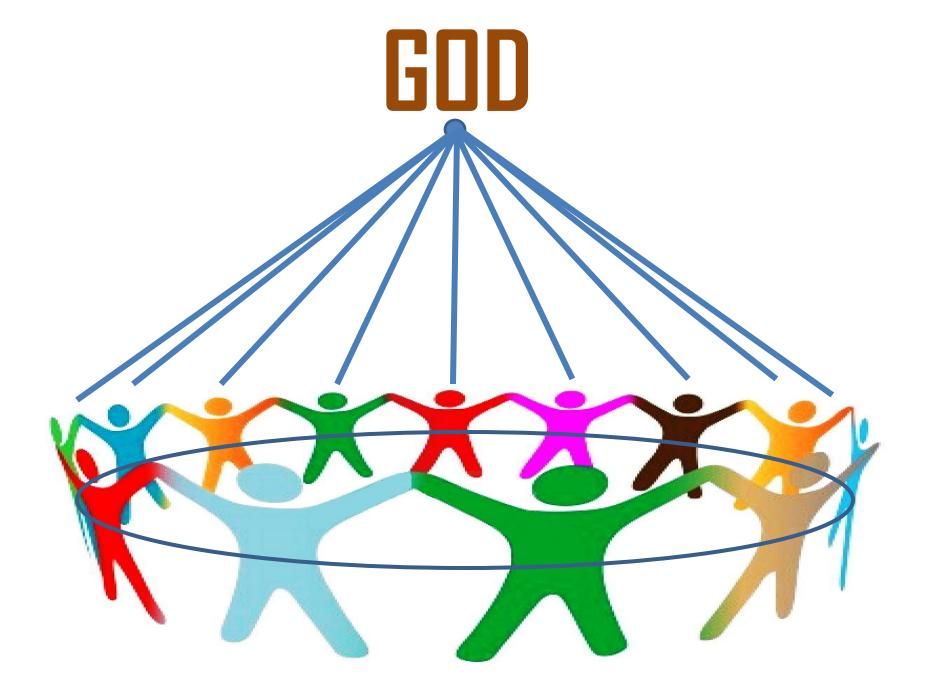
Answer:

By Scripture & Authority of God

Local Church Fellowship

Dependent <u>First</u> Upon an Individual's Fellowship with God

Mistakes are at times made by churches, yet this is not an excuse



1 John 1:7, "...If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin"

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We Can Be Too Inclusive

Accepting of One Publicly Known to be Immoral 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

The Local Church is a blessing because God uses this as a safeguard to keep us in line

We Can Be Too Inclusive

Accepting of One Walking Disorderly

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

We Can Be Too Inclusive

Accepting of One Who Advocates False Doctrine Romans 16:17-18 Galatians 1:6-9 2 John vss. 9-11

We Can Be Too Inclusive

Accepting of One With a Factional Mindset

Titus 3:10-11

We Can Be Too Exclusive

Just as Bad as the former extreme

3 John vss. 9-11 Acts 9:26-28

Abide by Scripture Pray for Wisdom

One Matter is Sure The Lord knows those who are His...

If we call Him Lord we must do as He says (Lk. 6:46)

Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Baptized, Stay Faithful

Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Mk. 16:16; Heb. 3:14