

What We Teach

THE CHURCH

We teach the autonomy of the local church, free from any external authority or control, with the right of self-government and freedom from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations ([Titus 1:5](#)). We teach that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other for the presentation and propagation of the faith. Each local church, however, through its elders and their interpretation and application of Scripture, should be the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation. The elders should determine all other matters of membership, policy, discipline, benevolence, and government as well ([Acts 15:19-31](#); [Acts 20:28](#); [1 Corinthians 5:4-7, 13](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#)).

We teach that the purpose of the church is to glorify God ([Ephesians 3:21](#)) by building itself up in the faith ([Ephesians 4:13-16](#)), by instruction of the Word ([2 Timothy 2:2, 15](#); [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)), by fellowship ([Acts 2:47](#); [1 John 1:3](#)), by keeping the ordinances ([Luke 22:19](#); [Acts 2:38-42](#)) and by advancing and communicating the gospel to the entire world ([Matthew 28:19](#); [Acts 1:8](#); [Acts 2:42](#)).