**Q108. What is the *local church*?**

**The local church is a group of professing believers who have covenanted to unify together to worship and glorify God by fulfilling the commands and mission God has given to the body of Christ.**

**Q109. What are the primary duties of the local church?**

**The local church is to submit to the authority of and diligently teach the Bible, follow the leadership of qualified elders, regularly gather together, serve one another, make disciples, practice higher levels of accountability, and live missional lives together.**

1. What are some differences between the local church and the universal church?
2. Why is it important for us to be committed to a local church?
3. How does scripture’s requirements of the local church impact the way you think about attending or joining a local church?
4. How does the local church being faithful to its biblical priorities impact society for good? What are some good things that the world says the church should prioritize and what happens when the church seeks to implement those priorities over or even alongside the priorities given by scripture?
5. How does the unity we are called to as the body of Christ differ from the world’s version of unity?
6. We've learned in past teaching, such as our lesson on accountability, that some divisions are commanded in Scripture (like when someone is preaching a false gospel), but there are other divisions that shouldn't happen (such as over Christian liberty issues). Read 1 Corinthians 1:10. In what ways can we practice this command to agree with one another and to not have any divisions that dishonor Christ?
7. Look at the 7 distinct duties of the local church and share how you have benefitted from Disciples church practicing these? Do you see yourself as an active participant in these duties?
8. How does being a member of the local church affect the way you think about your unique gifts and abilities and the impact they can have on your community?
9. Read Ephesians 4:15-16. Spend some time in thankful prayer for God’s gift of the local church. Pray for unity and for the growth of one another in the building up of the church in love.