

Gospel Associations

John 17:20-23

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1. Believers are associated together in the body of Christ within the local church and _____.

a. Christians have, *“an organic _____ which has already been prayed into existence by Jesus. His prayer has already been answered. ... You cannot separate a child of God from God. It is impossible. They are organically one. In the same way, you cannot separate a Christian from another Christian. It is impossible. They are organically one.”*
- Conrad Mbewe

b. Believers are one in Christ but must continue to _____ out that oneness in their relationships.

c. The oneness all believers have in Christ goes beyond the borders of the local church.

* The example of the church in _____

* The example of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, the first Baptist Association in America. _____

“The churches of the early Philadelphia Association emphasized starting new Baptist churches and shoring up the boundaries of sound Baptist _____ and ministry.” - Nathan Finn

2. The Great Commission requires not only healthy local churches but purposeful inter-church _____.

a. As Christians use their _____ as the body of Christ, the church is benefited and serves as a testimony to others.

b. As local churches purposefully interact and work together, the truth that the Father sent Christ into the world to _____ sinners, is communicated more widely.

“Inter-church associations become _____ if we are going to take the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth.”
- Conrad Mbewe

* The example of the Northampton Association in England. _____

“Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.” - William Carey

* The example of the _____ Association in New England. 1774, 1788

“No person can be a Christian without a change of heart by the Spirit of Christ! Neither conversion, therefore, nor the support of ministers may be maintained ‘by the _____ of magistrates’.” - Isaac Backus

The example of the Greater _____ Association of Baptists. 1993, Present