Why We Need Local Churches?
1 Cor. 12:12-26

Introduction:
A. The “church” in God’s plan.
   1. The Universal church — all of God’s people. (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23).
   2. The Local church — God’s people banded together locally (1 Cor. 1:2; 11:18).
B. Christians need local churches.
   1. Else God would not have provided them.
   2. Else early Christians would not have been in them (cf. Acts 9:26; Heb. 10:25).
C. Three basic benefits of local churches:

Discussion:
I. Mutual Edification (Eph. 4:11-16).
   A. Exhortation (Heb. 10:25; 3:13; Col. 3:16).
   B. Support and comfort (1 Cor. 12:26; 1 Thess. 4:18).
   C. Correction (1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess 3:6).
II. Combined Talent.
   A. Principle taught in a number of passages (1 Cor. 12:28-31; Rom. 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11-16)
   B. Different people are fitted for different works.
   C. Church is not a “one man show” (cf. 1 Cor. 12:19; Acts 6:1-4).
III. Combined Resources.
   A. For preaching the gospel (Phil 4:10-16; 2 Cor. 11:8).

Conclusion:
A. Not all a Christian does is through local church.
B. But, much of his work is through the church.
   1. Not to have “go it alone” attitude.
   2. Needs to work with others in local church.