

Our desire for purity of doctrine in the church also arises from this fact. The church expresses the truth and as he who has called us is holy, we also should be holy.

c. We believe in the church as an agency for the work of God.

Every believer is, of course, a witness and a worker. It is "people" who are going in the name of Christ into the world to win the lost. The church goes as its people go. But in 2 Corinthians 8-9, the church as a collect group provides for the needs of others. In Acts 13 the church as a body spiritual attends to the commissioning of missionaries and workers. And in various other passages of Scripture the church, as a company, takes the work of God...for the strength of one individual is limited while the strength of a corps is somewhat greater. So Paul (Ephesians 6) asks the church to pray for him and (Colossians 4) at other times instructs them to pray for themselves and their testimony. The Lord works through individuals and also through the groups comprised of individuals. Your personal contribution to the church at large is made in the hope that it will be more effective as an agency for doing the will of God.

3. Conclusion

One of the things that makes criticism of the local company so painful is that it is also a criticism of ourselves. We who believe are the church and we believe that we should be gathered for the expression of God's will and the doing of his work. Sometimes when we are not personally contributing what we should we find fault with others who are giving of themselves...but not to our satisfaction. Those who believe in the church will seek not to have such negative attitudes but, believing in the company and the nature of its purposes will give themselves to God and will prove it by their fellowship in the church.