

Church Life

Joseph Carty / General

Live Ministry / Church Assembly; Body of Christ; Attendant / Hebrews 10:24–25

What does it really mean to be a member of the body? How do I know if I'm experiencing the fullness of what Christ desires in my relationship with the Church?

The Body

1 Corinthians 12:12–13 **ESV**

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

- What metaphor?
 - Body

- Why
 - many parts
 - work together unitedly
 - no jealousy

- In human body
 - one part not working
 - illness
 - sick
 - body part attack body
 - auto immune disease
- Healthy Body
 - Healthy church
 - all active
 - all connected
 - all united
 - all working
- Christ describes
 - relationship to church
 - relationship to spouse

- Marriage as metaphor
 - Christian's relationship
 - with Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:22–28 **ESV**

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

- Details
 - Christ is head
 - Christ is bridegroom
 - Church is bride
 - Married to each other.
- Sacrificial Love

- Women Respect
- Men Selfless Love
- Connection with Christ
 - intertwined with
 - connection to church.
- Love, Loyalty, Service
 - to God
 - Connected to
 - Church...

The Ministry of Attendance

- This bond
 - so deep that
 - Paul says:

1 Corinthians 12:26 **ESV**

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice

together.

- Church family
 - deeper than
 - biological family...
- Relationships take time
 - time spent together.
- Marriages that
 - live separate lives
 - lead to divorce.
- Love Christ
 - Love Church
 - Spend time with Church!!!

Hebrews 10:24–25 ESV

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one

another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- Day is drawing near
 - Christ's Return
 - End of World
 - Climactic Events
- Most needed...?
 - Time with Church!!!
- Covid caused
 - serious spiritual issues
 - separation normality

Church Member

I'm not coming back...

Pastor: said nothing

moved coal

- We need each other.
- In fact,
 - your attendance
 - not just for you!
 - but for others
 - who need your connection!!!
- Discouraging when
 - small percentage comes
- Tempted to wonder
 - really worth it when
 - so few see value in church
 - and its mission.

Consumer Mentality

Membership

Country Club

Consumerism

“With your heart softened by the love of Jesus, go to the meeting, feeling that you are personally responsible for its success. If but few attend, you should feel under double responsibility” (Pastoral Ministry, p. 184).

Sabbath School

- Best part of Sabbath
 - not just monologue
 - engage
 - connect
 - listen
 - Support
 - organize mission

Sabbath Worship Service

- Christ's Example

Luke 4:16 ESV

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.

- People say:

"I worship God at home."

What does Bible teach?

Leviticus 23:3 ESV

"Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places.

- Sabbath is
 - holy convocation
 - sacred assembly
 - (meeting together!)
- If we want to see
 - ideal Sabbath

- Example of heaven:

[Isaiah 66:23](#) (ESV)

From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.

- What is it like?
 - come together
 - worship God

Church Hopping

- Detrimental to
 - spiritual health
- Church is body
 - you are body part
 - can't keep changing
- What happens
 - no connection

- no service
- no relationship
- sickness

Prayer Meeting or Mid-Week Bible Study

“A prayer meeting will always tell the true interest of the church members in spiritual and eternal things. The prayer meeting is as the pulse to the body; it denotes the true spiritual condition of the church” (Pastoral Ministry, p. 183).

“Those who are really seeking for communion with God will be seen in the prayer meeting, faithful to do their duty, and earnest and anxious to reap all the benefits they can gain. They will improve every opportunity of placing themselves where they can receive the rays of light from heaven” (In Heavenly Places, p. 91).

Appeal

- Thanks to you
 - who are experiencing
 - fullness of body
- If you are not
 - do it!
- So worth it.