



United Community Church

Pastor Ron Burks 3/5/17

“Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.”

1 Cor 12:27 (See also Rom 12:4-5, Col 1:18, 1 Cor 12:13, 25-26)

The Greek word for church is *ekklesia* which means “called out ones”. We are called out from the world to be witnesses to the world about God’s kingdom.

The Church...Is a group of people NOT a place/ Has a God-sized purpose NOT self-promotion/ Needs God’s power NOT an exemption from persecution

Definition of church: The church was established by God & is comprised of individual members who are under the head Jesus Christ (our AUTHORITY for living and governing), empowered & gifted by the Holy Spirit to work together (ALIGNMENT with Christ & each other) to build the body of Christ (ACCOUNTABILITY to Christ & each other), and live out our faith for the world to see (AUTHENTICITY). (These are UCC’s 4 Core Values).

### **My Relationship with the Lord in the Body of Christ**

1. I am a “prisoner for the Lord”, Eph 4:1  
Prisoner indicates a master/slave relationship and describes my obligation/responsibility to God. My rights to my life & my selfish desires were relinquished when I came to Christ. Therefore, I am obligated to serve Christ & follow His will. However, God gives me a choice to serve Him out of love and appreciation for His grace and love toward me.
2. I am responsible to “walk worthy of my calling”, Eph 4:2  
The word “worthy” means “to weigh the same as”. Therefore, my walk must weigh the same as my calling  
I am called to – salvation (2 Tim 1:9), fellowship with Christ (1 Cor 1:9), holiness (1 Thess 4:7), serve one another (Gal 5:13), be part of the body of Christ (Col 3:15), from darkness to light (1 Pet 2:9), His purpose (Rom 8:28-29), walk in the spirit not the flesh (Gal 5:16),

### **Does Your Walk Match Your Call?**

1. You are called to be a Christian but do you walk like a Christian in humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing with one another in love (Eph 4:2)
2. You are called to be part of the body of Christ but do you participate in the body seeking to maintain unity in the Spirit (Eph 4:3)
3. You are appointed to bear spiritual fruit but do you put off the flesh & put on Christ in your life (Eph 4:20-32)