



BECOMING THE CHURCH

THE CHURCH AS A BODY

Acts 6:1–7 | September 27, 2026 | Pastor Jenna Luoto

SERMON SUMMARY

So far this series has named drifts we absorbed from the culture around us. This week Pastor Jenna takes on one we didn't choose so much as inherit. In the American church there are people who do ministry and people who receive it. Pastors and staff teach, counsel, organize, and serve, while everyone else attends. It feels normal because it is all most of us have known, but Acts 6 shows a very different picture. When the food distribution broke down, the apostles didn't take it on. They said it wasn't their calling, and seven others were chosen, prayed over, and commissioned for the task, because no job in the church is more sacred than another. Luke then writes, "So God's message continued to spread." Paul builds on this in 1 Corinthians 12: the church is a body, every part essential, each placed exactly where God wants it. Pastor Jenna then names the cost. Roughly 60 percent of churchgoers don't participate in their church's ministry, and 61 percent say they lack a sense of purpose. She suspects those numbers are related. We weren't made to consume. We were made to contribute.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Pastor Jenna said some of what we need to examine isn't something we conformed to, it was handed to us. What assumptions about "how church works" have you inherited without ever questioning them?
- 2 In Acts 6 the apostles declined to run the food program, not because it was beneath them, but because it wasn't theirs to carry. Where in your life are you carrying something that isn't yours, or leaving undone something that is?
- 3 Luke writes "So God's message continued to spread" right after the ministry got distributed. Why do you think shared responsibility had that effect, and what might that look like at K1?
- 4 Paul says God places each part of the body exactly where He wants it. What gift, skill, or passion has God given you? Do you tend to think of it as something for your own life or something for the body?
- 5 Pastor Jenna suspects the 60 percent who don't participate in their church's ministry and the 61 percent who lack a sense of purpose are the same people. Have participation and purpose been connected in your own experience?
- 6 Pastor Jenna deliberately did not ask anyone to sign up to serve. Instead her challenge was this: meditate on 1 Corinthians 12 this week and ask God to open your heart and eyes to what He may want to shift in your heart and your vision. As you start, is the ministry of the church what you shape your life around, and is it where your best effort and energy go?

Last Week's Challenge Update:

Last week Pastor Maddi asked us to name what a realistic Sabbath looks like in this season and share it with the group. Pastor Jenna was careful not to follow a call to rest with a call to do more. How did your week of stopping and dwelling go, and how do you hold rest and contribution together?

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HOW WE GOT HERE

In Acts 6, the ministry of the church was shared across the whole body. When a real need surfaced, the apostles didn't absorb it. Seven others were chosen, prayed over, and commissioned, and Luke notes what followed: "So God's message continued to spread." The structure most of us know today, where pastors and staff provide ministry and a congregation receives it, didn't arrive in a single moment of rebellion. It came through a long series of reasonable decisions, each solving a real problem, that slowly moved the church away from its original design. Seeing that drift laid out helps us tell the difference between what Scripture actually describes and what we simply inherited.

