

# The Church Community

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley

Sunday, May 24, 2026

## 1. The Church Is a Spiritual Family

- The New Testament repeatedly uses family language and collective pronouns.
- The church was designed to function as a connected community.
- The church is central to life “in Christ,” not something on the fringe.

### Key References

- Ephesians 4:15–16
  - Hebrews 10:25
- 

## 2. The Modern Drift Away from Biblical Community

- Church has often become a once-a-week event.
- Many professing Christians place church at the edge of life instead of the center.
- Isolation and spiritual independence are becoming normalized.

### Supporting Thought

- Share church attendance and involvement statistics.
- 

## 3. The Church as a Divine Ecosystem

### Definition

“A connected environment sustained by a life-giving source, where every part both receives and contributes to the flourishing of the whole.”

### Main Ideas

- The church is the connected environment.
- Christ is the life-giving source.
- Every believer contributes to the health of the body.

### Key Reference

- Ephesians 4:15–16
- 

## 4. Every Believer Has a Role

### From Ephesians 4:15–16

- Christ is our common denominator.
  - We are fitted together.
  - We are held together.
  - Every joint supplies support.
  - Every part contributes.
  - Love grows through healthy connection.
-

## 5. Biblical Community Requires Close Relationships

### “One Another” Commands

- Be devoted to one another
- Tolerate one another
- Forgive one another
- Serve one another
- Bear one another’s burdens
- Rejoice and weep together
- Preserve unity

### Main Point

- These commands only make sense in ongoing relational community.
- 

## 6. Do Not Forsake Gathering Together

### Key Reference

- Hebrews 10:25

### Main Ideas

- Gathering is essential to encouragement and spiritual growth.
  - The church is God’s plan for His people.
  - God’s design includes:
    - Love
    - Unity
    - Togetherness
    - Equality in Christ
- 

## 7. A Warning Against Spiritual Independence

### Key Reference

- Revelation 3:14–20

### Main Ideas

- The Laodicean church believed they needed nothing.
  - Self-sufficiency can blind us spiritually.
  - Jesus calls His church to repentance and renewed zeal.
  - Christ desires fellowship with His people.
- 

## 8. Final Call to the Churches

### Key Reference

- Revelation 3:22

### Closing Thought

- The Spirit is still speaking to the churches.
- We must hear, respond, and live as a connected body in Christ.