

I Am a Church Member – Functioning & Unifying

1 Key Thoughts

1. The “big C” Church is the global body of believers; the “little c” church is the local gathering through which we live out faith together.
 2. Every believer is called to be a *functioning* part of the body—actively engaged in disciple-making, not parked on the sidelines.
 3. Unity is not sameness but shared purpose: different gifts, one Spirit; different callings, one Lord.
 4. A functional church without unity burns out; a unified church without function stagnates.
 5. When we are both functional and unified, the world sees the beauty of Christ and hears the gospel through His people.
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2 Discussion Questions

(Write responses in the space provided.)

1. What stood out to you about the distinction between the “big C” and “little c” church?
2. In what ways might believers today find themselves “parked in the driveway” spiritually?
3. Read Matthew 28:19-20. What part of the Great Commission do you personally find easiest—or hardest—to live out?
4. How does 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 challenge your view of unity and diversity in the Church?

5. Think about Pastor Chris's guitar illustration. What happens when one "finger" (member) refuses to play its part?
 6. What practical steps could our group take to strengthen both function *and* unity at Sonrise this month?
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Applications

1. **Personal:** Identify one area where you can "get out of park" and actively serve—share your plan with the group next week.
 2. **Relational:** Choose one person in the church you'll intentionally encourage or pray with this week to build unity.
 3. **Missional:** As a group, pick one community or church project (Life Group service, building campaign, outreach) to support together.
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Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling us into Your Church—the body You love and lead. Help us to function faithfully in the gifts You've given and to walk in unity through Your Spirit. Tune our hearts to work together so the song of the gospel rings clearly in our world. Make us one, as You and the Father are one. Amen.