

Notes; Community of the Lord Sunday May 17th 20026

Ecclesiology (*theology as applied to the nature and structure of the Christian Church*)

5 Symptoms of the Crippling Disease

1. Loneliness and Isolation

2. Depression

3. Meaninglessness

4. Addiction

5. Guilt

- When we are not a part of God's household, we become very vulnerable to the attack of the enemy. The enemy is a wolf or a lion, and sheep are on their menu.

Here are 7 reasons why Christ followers need to function in a local church:

1. In the Gospels, when people followed Jesus, He immediately brought them into His community.

With this community, He said He was building His church (**Matthew 16:18**).

Peter you are a **stone** and upon this **ROCK/Jesus** I will build my church.

He was casting the vision of what HE wanted before His disciples and they were to have a part in building the Church.

This debunks the notion that Jesus made disciples without the local church in mind.

Acts 2:44 *"Now all who believed were together"*

Acts 2:47 *“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”*

1 Pet 2:4-5 *“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ **you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**”*

2. The Church is inextricably inseparably, connected to Jesus.

(in a way that is impossible to disentangle or separate.

"for many top executives, golf and business are inextricably linked")

Eph 4:16 *from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

Those who follow Jesus apart from the Church are attempting to follow a head without a body!

The Bible is very clear about the type of person who does not want to be part of the head.

Col 2:18-19 *“they delight in false humility, vainly puffed up by their fleshly minds.” (They have an appearance great knowledge,)*

Vs 19 *“and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.”*

3. The Church is the visible manifestation of the invisible Christ.

The Apostle John said, *“as He is [in heaven] so are we in this [present] world”* **1 John 4:17**

1 John 4:20 *“If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, or (I hate the church) he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”*

- He also equated loving the invisible God with loving the visible Church
 - The head and the body are connected, you can't separate them.
 - You can't love the head but hate the body.
 - Thus, there is both a mystical body of Christ and a visible body

Hebrews 12:23 “to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,”

1 Tim 3:15 “I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

Rom 12:9-11 CEB version “Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. ¹¹ Don’t hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord!”

When we come together as a family, or a community of believers.

We have some great **Spiritual benefits**.

1. Pray for one another James 5:16
2. Exhort one another Heb 10:25
3. Edifying one another Rom 14:9
4. Bearing one another’s burdens Gal 6:2
5. Singing, praising and worshipping together Col 3:16
6. Comforting one another 1 Thess 4:18
7. Forgiving one another Eph 4:32

Practical benefits

1. Receiving one another into friendship Rom Rom 15:7
2. Serving one another in practical ways Gal 5:13
3. House to house fellowship Acts 2:46
4. Showing hospitality to those in need Rom 12:13
5. Being considerate one of another Eph 4:32
6. Helping the needy financially 1 John 3:16-18
7. Getting to know and appreciate each other

4. The promises of God assume a corporate body.

Luke 4:16-20 CJB Complete Jewish Bible “Now when he went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, on Shabbat he went to the synagogue **as usual (or as was His custom)**

He stood up to read,¹⁷ and he was given the scroll of the prophet Yesha 'yahu. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,"

¹⁸ "The Spirit of ADONAI is upon me; therefore he has anointed me

Hence: *people in biblical times could not conceive of following God apart from a community of believers.*

5. You cannot be a disciple apart from the Church.

Matthew 28:19-20 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you"*

Acts 2:47 *"And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."*
(And baptized) Acts 2:38 Peter *"Repent and be baptized!"*

6. You cannot hear the whole counsel of God apart from the Church.

Hence, *people in their city could not hear the Lord's word regarding the destiny of their city without participating in their own local church.*

7. Jesus is coming back for His bride.

According to **Ephesians 5:27a** *"that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, "*

Jesus is coming back for His Bride, not merely for individual Christians.

2 Thess 2:1 *"Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,"*