

Foundations - The Church and Hope

When we become disciples of Jesus we also become a part of the body of Christ, also known as the church. The beauty and power of this church is realized both by the individual Christian as well as the collective. There is blessing for the believer and the body as a whole. The blessings can extend outward to sister congregations as well as those outside the church community that are hurting, marginalized, or in great need.

1. We receive Hope in becoming a part of the church

- You are the body of Christ
- Romans 12:4-5
- Ephesians 1:22-23
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- Based on this passage, how integral do you see yourself as a part of the church?
- How important do you see others as being to you in the church?
- How important is your role in the church?
- Do you feel like there are any roles more important than another in the church?

- You belong and have a role
- Ephesians 4:15-16
- We are meant to build one another up
- Ephesians 2:10
- Meant to do Good works
- What good works do you believe God has for you to do?
- Sharing the word?
- Sharing his love to others?

2. The church receives Hope through faith and love of other churches

- The Body of Christ cares for itself
- Acts 11:29-30 (context 11:19ff)
- The believers knew there would be needs in Jerusalem so they send money to support them

- Today as a body we give to missions and Hope with the same heart
- Additional reference of collection taken for the benefit of other churches - 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 & 2 Corinthians 9
- very encouraging passage and how our giving results in praise to God and prayers for us who give. 2 Corinthians 9:11-15

3. The world receives Hope from Jesus through the church

- The Body of Christ cares for others
- Matthew 25:34-40
- Jesus knew the scriptures and God's heart for others and how His body should care for others
- Isaiah 25:4-5
- Isaiah 58:5-7

When you become a disciple of Jesus you automatically become a member of His body, which is the church.