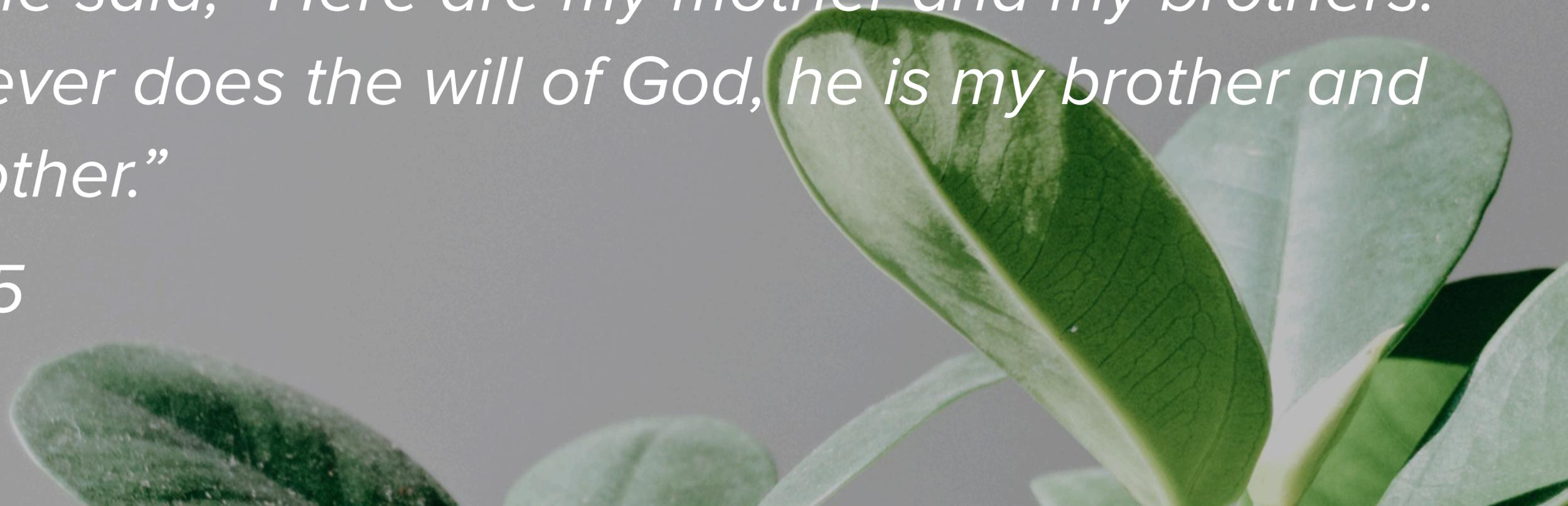




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[32] And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” [33] And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” [34] And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! [35] For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

Mark 3:32–35



[12] For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. [13] For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. [14] For the body does not consist of one member but of many. [15] If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.

1 Corinthians 12:12–27

[16] And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. [17] If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? [18] But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. [19] If all were a single member, where would the body be?

1 Corinthians 12:12–27



[20] As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. [21] The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” [22] On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, [23] and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, [24] which our more presentable parts do not require.

1 Corinthians 12:12–27

But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, [25] that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. [26] If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. [27] Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:12–27





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Questions?

Text: (805) 628-2244



[28] Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Acts 20:28



Our cultural baggage

What the bible says about belonging to a church

Our ongoing spiritual formation



T H E C H U R C H

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The problem with individualism, choice, and fake community



[Urban Tribes are] collections of peers who hold a loose commitment that is based around the group pursuit of pleasure and experience, a pursuit that provides some relational solace but still allows the individual ultimate freedom.

– Mark Sayers



Commitment is something to be feared. At the same time the protagonist realize that for a human life to mean something one must have relationships, thus the plots revolve around the quest to enjoy the solace that relationships bring, and yet to maintain maximum personal freedom.

– Mark Sayers



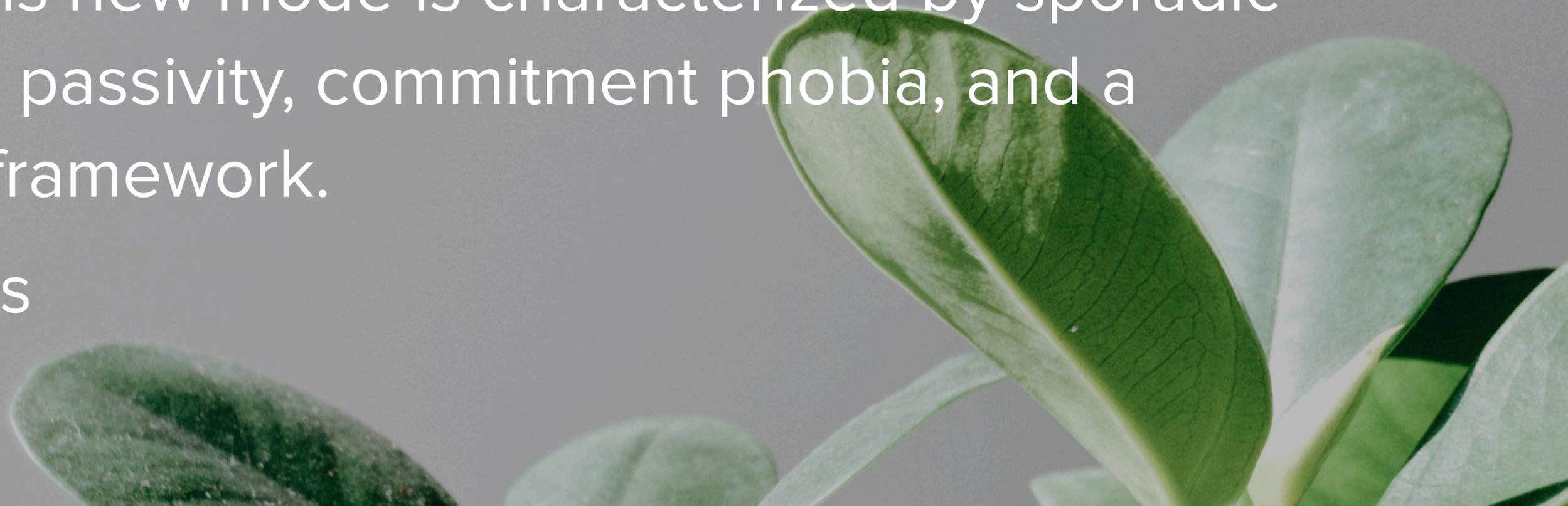
While not wanting to actually attend churches, people do continue to identify themselves religiously with a certain label and want, as well, to continue to receive the benefits and rites of passage within their churches. Moreover, they want to see their churches continue, even though they are not attending them. They want the church to be there when they want it, even if they do not want it very often.

– Ronald Rolheiser



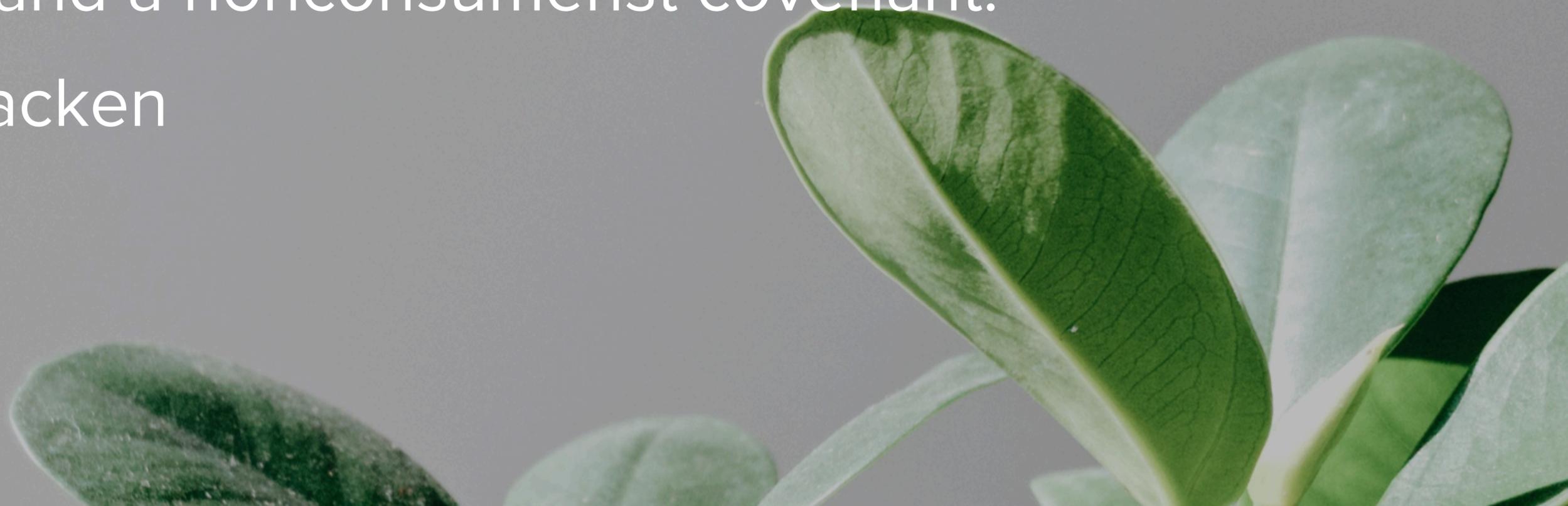
The disappearance of a mode of church engagement characterized by commitment, resilience, and sacrifice among many Western believers. In its place a new mode of disengaged Christian faith and church interaction is emerging. This new mode is characterized by sporadic engagement, passivity, commitment phobia, and a consumerist framework.

– Mark Sayers



A healthy relationship with local church is like a healthy marriage: it only works when grounded in selfless commitment and a nonconsumerist covenant.

– Brett McCracken



What does the bible say about connecting and committing to a local church?



The universal church is all believers in Jesus for all time

The local church is a geographically and sociologically limited group of believers who are carrying out the commands to the church in their local context





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Buzzing Church

Man Refuses To Join Local Gym, Claims He's Just Part Of The 'Universal Gym'

August 22, 2018



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Why membership?

What membership is and isn't

Who are members?

What do members do?



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Why membership?



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There is no such thing as a Christian without the church



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Belonging is more than attending



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What membership is & isn't



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Church membership, is all about a church taking specific responsibility for you, and you for a church



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Who are members?



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Members are followers of Jesus gathered in a local community of believers, committed to each other



Are you a brother/sister in Christ?

Is Anthem Church the people that you are calling your church family?



T H E C H U R C H

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How does someone become a member of Anthem Church?



[34] A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34–35



T H E C H U R C H

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What do members do?



T H E C H U R C H

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As a member of the family, you are responsible to and for each other.



[28] Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Acts 20:28



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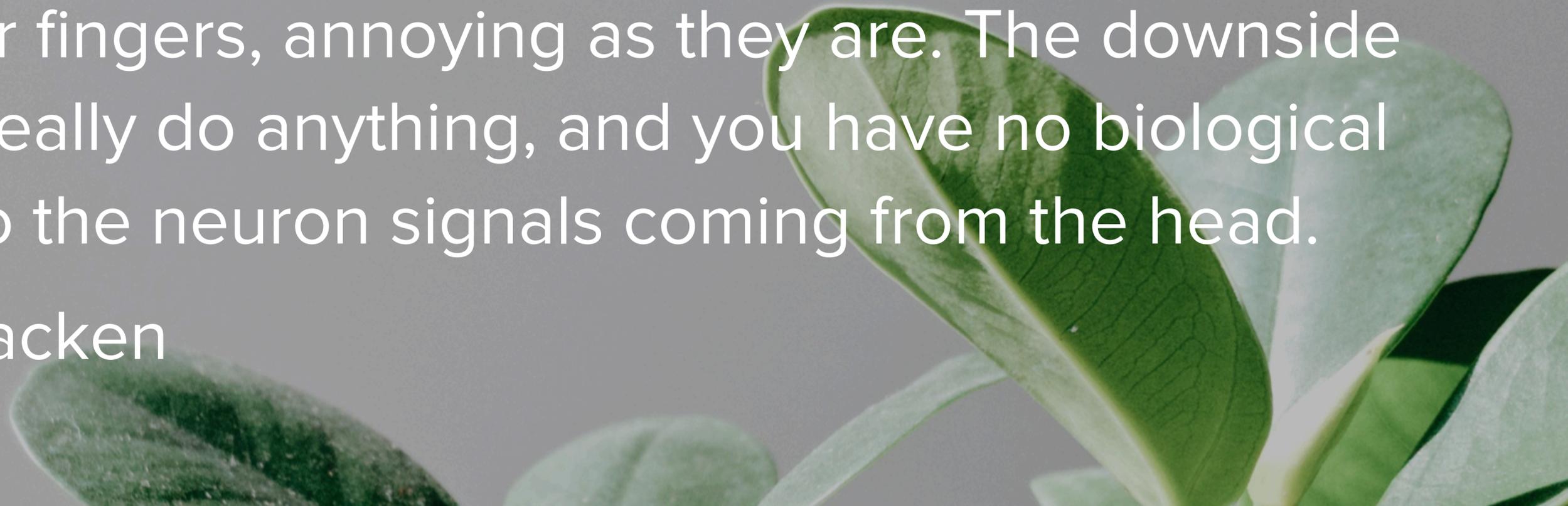
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Give yourself to Jesus and His church



Our real choice is this: do we want to be plugged into the life-blood and energy of the body, or do we want to cut ourselves off from this body, lying inert somewhere and as a severed finger or amputated leg? The upside of being a severed finger is, you don't have to bother with cooperating with the other fingers, annoying as they are. The downside is, you can't really do anything, and you have no biological connection to the neuron signals coming from the head.

– Brett McCracken



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What's your next step?





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