

COMMITMENT TO A LOCAL CHURCH

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another..."

1. What is God's opinion on active involvement in a local church? Why does He want us to meet together regularly? (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Read II Timothy 2: 19-22

2. What must everyone who confesses Jesus as Lord do? (vv. 19, 22)

3. What incredible opportunity will that open up for us? (vv. 20-21)

4. Who are we commanded to carry this out with? (v. 22)

Read the following passages, and list the benefits and purposes of the local church.

a) Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12

b) Proverbs 27:17

c) Ephesians 4:11-16

d) II Timothy 2:2

e) I Peter 2: 4-12

f) Ephesians 1: 22-23

Read I Corinthians 12:12-27

5. What is the church? (vv. 12-13, 27)

If a believer is called to be a member of a particular local church and disobeys God by refusing to get actively involved and plant his or her roots down, that church will operate under a constant state of handicap. Like a man who lost his hand in an accident, the church will still be alive, but will not function at the fullest level it was intended to. The believer, however, will be like the severed hand. Just like the hand will die if it is not reattached by an expert surgeon after a period of time, the believer will begin to die spiritually because he or she is not connected with the body as God intended and is therefore cut off from His life that is found only in His body.

6. Who decides where (which particular church) each member of the body is placed? (v. 18)

7. Why do you think it's vital that we make a strong commitment to a particular church?

8. What was Jesus' prayer for believers? (John 17:20-24)

9. If we meet His conditions, how will the unbelieving world be impacted? (v. 23)

10. How will the world know we are Jesus' disciples? (John 13:35)

11. How is our relationship with God, and His presence in our lives, affected by our relationships with other believers? (1 John 4:12)

12. How are we to practically walk this out? (1 John 3:16-18, 1 Thessalonians 2:8)

God's intention for His people is not simply that we share common doctrine about Him. He wants us to love each other and share our lives with each other, strengthening, challenging, helping, encouraging and above all loving each other as we walk out our common mission to reach the world for Him.

13. What are we, and what are we corporately being built into? (1 Peter 2:5, Ephesians

2:21-22)

14. What is Jesus building, and what type of victory will it have? (Matthew 16:18)

15. For what is Jesus coming? (Ephesians 5:25-27)

16. Why is the manifestation of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit given to an individual believer? (I Corinthians 12:7)
