

Why do I NEED to be part of the church?

What is the church?

Romans 12:5(NIV) *so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

1 Corinthians 12:27(NIV) *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

Galatians 3:27(NIV) *for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*

Sounds like we are a body, interconnected and belonging to each other, clothed with Christ. So that must mean we look like Christ, at least in how we act and believe. It only says "body" as singular so there can be only ONE body or ONE church.

How do I KNOW which is the right one?

If there is only one body then it must be the one which follows the Bible, pure and simple. If there is a pattern in the Bible then I just look for the one which matches that pattern, no more and no less.

Ephesians 4:5-6(NIV) *one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

Here again, everything is singular! I MUST look at the pattern in the New Testament and see how they did everything. Interesting how the first church acted in Acts 2:38-47.

What is meant that God "added" me to His church?

Acts 2:47(NIV) *praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

Acts 5:14(NIV) *Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.*

Sounds like when those early people were baptized they were automatically "added" by God. Since the Lord is adding the ones who are being baptized to the church it is not a matter of joining or being voted in. Once we become Christians we are automatically part of His church!

(See Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 1:22-23, and 2 Corinthians 5:17 also.)

Why do I NEED to be an ACTIVE part of the church?

John 13:35(NIV) *By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

➤ I really want and need to be part of a family of love!

Romans 15:5-6(NIV) *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Colossians 3:15-17(NIV) *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

➤ I need (and God expects) me to have a time and gathering to collectively praise God, study together, and sing

together. I also praise and pray daily but it is so much more uplifting when in a larger group.

Acts 20:7(NIV) *On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.*

➤ I read in 1 Corinthians 11:23-33 that Jesus commanded us to remember His sacrifice in partaking of the communion. In Acts it shows the early church was doing that weekly.

Hebrews 13:17(KJV) *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

➤ Submit to the elders who are the leaders of the congregation and serve as my shepherd - looking after my spiritual health. It will be encouraging to have someone who cares looking out for me!

Romans 12:1(NIV) *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.*

➤ Be fully committed, plugged in and offering myself heart, body and soul to God to be used in His service (2 Timothy 2:21).

Hebrews 10:25(NIV) *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Colossians 2:2(NIV) *My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and*

united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,

Romans 12:15(NIV) Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Galatians 6:1-2(NIV) Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

- Encourage each other. I certainly do need that with all the struggles and stuff of life each day! Part of that encouragement is guiding me back to the right path when I mess up.

Ephesians 4:16(NIV) From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

See also 2 Peter 1:3-5.

- Grow personally and help the church grow as a body, the body of Christ and the body I choose to be part of!

Galatians 6:10(NIV) Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

- Help each other (benevolence).

[What does the church do for me?](#)

Provides the foundation for support, encouragement, helping me and my family get to heaven, provides a place to worship collectively, give, pray together, study together, and grow together. It is FAMILY. God's Family!

[I've got to get more plugged in!](#)

[We are here to help you!](#)

We would sincerely like the opportunity to talk with you more about this subject and share what God's word says about it. As Jesus said, **John 8:32(NIV)** "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

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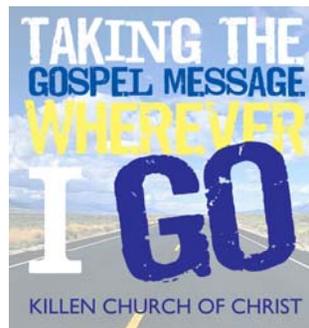
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Need active part of church- rbh 01/23/13

Why Do I NEED To Be An Active Part Of The Church

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