

## SEPTEMBER WHY SHOULD I BE PART OF THE CHURCH

### I Corinthians 12:4-27

Continuing with our Series Back to the Basic

Today we're asking the question:

#### **Why should I be a part of the church?**

All of us have heard the excuses for not going to church

What would happen if we applied those same excuses to eating.

I never eat anymore because...

1. I was forced to eat as a child.
2. People who eat all the time are hypocrites -- they aren't really hungry!
3. There are so many different kinds of food; I can't decide what to eat.
4. I used to eat, but I got bored and stopped. None of my friends will eat with me.
5. I only eat on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter, couple of funerals.
6. I'll start eating when I get older and have more time.
7. I don't believe that eating does anybody any good. It's just a crutch.
8. Restaurants and grocery stores are only after your money.

IN the past 2000 years the church has been a place of strong disagreements and even wars.

Christians have killed other Christians, and

All of us know of congregations of people today

who are rude to outsiders, fight with one another

battle over money, exclude those who are suffering,

Why would anyone want to be involved with a group of people like that?

#### CARTOON STRIP DILBERT

1. I Decided to start a discount religion.
2. Tithing would only be %5 and I'd let people sin as much as they want.
3. The only problem is I don't want to spend time with anyone who would join that kind of religion.

**Homer Simpson told his wife Marge**, the best thing about Sunday football is that it "Gets rid of the unpleasant aftertaste of Church."

The church is the gathering of people who follow Jesus Christ and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live under biblical authority in Community with one another.

**A little girl asked her new neighbor, "Do you go to church?"**

**"Yes, we you?" she said:** "We're Methodists, and I go every Sunday with my mother."

**"Doesn't your daddy go too?" "No she said: He's a SEVENTH-DAY ABSENTIST."**

#### **WHY SHOULD I BE A PART OF THE CHURCH?**

##### **1. CHURCH IS OUR FAMILY**

**Ephesians 2:19 LB** “Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God’s very own family... and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.”

The Greek word **kuriakos** = appears to mean “Belonging to the Lord”

The Greek word **ekklesia** = called out ones.

**CHURCH means: --A community called to belong to God.**

God created the church to be his spiritual family.

We do not live in isolation from each other,

That why those who have lost their family, thru divorce, abandonment,

Widowhood, or death, still have another family.

**A people who are called out and belong to the Lord.**

The church was Gods idea.

Our service and gifts identify ourselves to the body of Christ.

**There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.<sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.<sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. I Corinthians 12:4-6**

That is why we are all Brother and Sisters in Christ.

United in the family

Because we belong to one another.

**In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:5**

**ST. John the Evangelist in Rules of the Society said:** “God has called us into being as a community and our life as a community, though fraught with struggles and failures, is a powerful act of revelation, testimony, and service.”

No one can develop spirituality maturity alone.

A Christian without a congregational family is a contradiction.

It is like a child without a parent.

A bird without a flock,

A cow without a head

A quarterback without a team.

Rick Warren said many American Christians are what he calls “floating believers”

Which means they bob from one place to the next.

Being a believer is synomous with being connected to a local body of believers.

Our Evangelism task is to move people

from an awareness of our church

Into attending our church

To active membership in our church.

Believing and belonging together.

**WHY SHOULD WE BE A PART OF THE CHURCH?**

## I. CHURCH IS OUR FAMILY

## II. CHURCH IS OUR LEARNING INSTITUTION

### a. It is a place to grow up in the faith.

**Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,<sup>[a]</sup> and to still another the interpretation of tongues.<sup>[b]</sup>**

**<sup>11</sup>All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. I Corinthians 12:7-11**

If you notice in Vs 7-11 We have all been given different gifts.

**Those of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous power, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking and interpreting tongues**

Where do we get those gifts?

We get them from **“one and the same Spirit.”**

No one person has them all.

But in the Church together we learn and grow in the faith.

**As Iron Sharpen Iron so one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17**

**Church is our learning institution**

It happens in our church every week in our Bibles studies of men and women.

I really enjoy my Thursday's men's bible studies at Murphy's.

With 12 men who pray, share and grow together in the faith.

Its exciting to see the insights we get from one another in God's word.

That happens in all our groups.

IT happens in the 9 Adult Sunday school classes that take place.

It happens in the 20 some children's and youth classes.

It happens in preschool and All Stars during the week.

**The church is a place to grow in our faith.**

### b. The church is also a place to reveal our heartaches and joys.

Not only do we learn how to grow

But we learn the tricks of coping with life burdens and sorrow.

**I got a tip from one of you that travels a lot and stay in motels.**

You told me that when I travel to use the Wake-up calls

But they are the worst way to wake up.

The phone rings, it's loud and you can't turn it down.

So I discovered that if you give the wake up call for the room next to you.

When the phone rings in the morning you can here it rings very quietly

and you hear a guy yell,

"Why are you calling me?"

Then you get up and take a shower. It's great.

The church is the place where we individually don't have all the gifts we need.

The church is the place where we share life together.  
 When were happy or sad.  
 When were hot and cold.

**I like the story of the plumber went to check an elderly couple's furnace.**

He found the thermostat control in the hallway and turned it down, completed the work and was puzzled when the furnace didn't start when the thermostat was turned back up. On his way downstairs to the furnace when the owner said,  
 "You'll have to use this one."  
 He opened a hall closet to reveal a second thermostat control.  
 "My wife's been using that old thermostat for 11 years,  
 while I've been saving dollars by controlling the temperature here."

The church should help us stay in line but  
 Not by manipulating or deceiving one another.  
 But giving a place to discover and use our gifts in ministry.

**<sup>24</sup>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.  
<sup>25</sup>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. Heb 10:24-25**

We are a part of the church  
 for over 5,765 years has given us a Biblical history of mankind's  
 success and failure in our relationship with God.  
 Our success and failures and Gods forgiveness and Grace.  
 In spite of that were still growing today;  
 Do you know that over 2 billion people around the world,  
 over half of our world's population, are Christian.

## **WHY SHOULD I BE A PART OF THE CHURCH**

### **I. CHURCH IS OUR FAMILY**

### **II. CHURCH IS OUR PLACE OF LEARNING**

### **III. CHURCH IS OUR SANCTUARY**

#### **PLACE OF PROTECTION**

**<sup>14</sup>Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. I Corinthians 12:14-16,18**

How do the different parts of the body protect us?  
 The **eye** sees things that the feet need to step over.  
 The **feet** step over things that would endanger the body.  
 The **body** moves the hand to ward off the enemy.  
 The **hand** cups the ear to hear the danger sounds.

The **heart** moves the body to do that which seem impossible

Some of you are eyes and –can see vision for future and mistakes of past.

Some of you are the **ears** – you can hear the difference between heresy and the truth

Working together we are protected.

And the church is sanctuary for the weak and wounded.

**CHURCH SLIDE-That is true no matter what church you are a part of:**

**Worship** helps you focus on God.

It prepares you spiritually and emotionally for the week ahead

**Fellowship** helps you face life's problems by providing the support and encouragement of other Christians.

**Discipleship** helps fortify your faith by learning the truth of God's Word and applying biblical principles to your lifestyle.

**Ministry** helps you find and develop your talents and use them in serving others.

**Evangelism** helps you fulfill your mission of reaching your friends and family for Christ.

**The church is a sanctuary and gives you protection so that**

One person cannot take over, or hurt or abuse others.

A church bulletin had this line in it.

**Don't let worry kill you -- let the church help.**

**Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17**

Its sad that even in the church

We need protection from heresy, and false doctrine,

From vicious gossip and the evil intents of others.

**A mother decided it was time that her three sons get baptized.**

After meeting with the pastor for instruction, the next Sunday morning they were on their way to church where the three boys, 8, 9, and 11, were told they would have their sins washed away.

The 8 year old seem worried and upset.

His mother ask? Why are you so worried.

The boy said: "Mom, I want to go first."

"Why?" "Because, I don't want to be baptized in water that has all of my brother's sins floating around in it."

That kid had it right – we are a sinful people

**A church had a bulletin misprint that said: Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.**

But we are saved by Grace, protected by the cross of Christ.

And by our Spiritual leaders.

**Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. <sup>29</sup>I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Acts 20:28-29**

**WHY SHOULD I BE A PART OF THE CHURCH**

**III. THE CHURCH IS OUR PLACE OF PROTECTION**

**IV. CHURCH GIVE US OUR AUTHORITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Where does the eye and the feet get their authority?

From the body.

The body give the authority to the Eye to see,  
the ear to hear, the feet to walk and the tongue to speak.

So in the church we find the authority to  
teach, preach, usher and greet, serve, cook, and clean, arrange alters and  
Worship centers, organize budgets, build and manage new buildings, and go on missions.

**But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.**

**I Corinthians 12:24-25**

**And because of this**

**WE CAN MAKE A GREATER DIFFERENCE WORKING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY THAN WE CAN ALONE.**

As we work together under the authority of Gods Word

And the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

cults can be stopped.

sin can be exposed.

Biblical distortions can be revealed.

Lives can be healed.

Lifestyles can be corrected.

**<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:1-2**

We receive our authority under the Law of Christ.

And the Spirit of the living God.

Because we are his children.

Living together in family.

We are baptized in the church

Confirmed in the church

Received as member in the church

Married in the church

Buried in the church  
Glorified and Sanctified in the Church.

The church we join is the tool in the hand of God  
To transform our lives, our families, our cities, our societies, our world.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost  
To become the church that God intended.  
And the People to whom God has called.  
**A going church for a coming Christ.**