

THE LOCAL CHURCH – WHY PLUG IN?

Jesus desires a growing relationship with us, and there are things we can do to cultivate our relationship with Him (e.g. talking with Him regularly, reading and following His word, enjoying inspiring music and personal worship, serving people, etc). One important component is to be actively a part of a local church. Jesus wants us to be part of a church – and intends for the Christian life to be lived in community, not isolation. Jesus loves the church and so should we.

We are a part (member) of God’s “household”, His “body” and His “family”. Every member is important, and has a role to play for the good of the whole and God’s Kingdom.

There are many scriptures that speak about the importance of being involved with a local church, including Hebrews 10:24-25; Luke 4:16; Acts 2:42-47; I Corinthians 12:12-27, 16:1-3; Romans 12:1-16; Ephesians 2:19-22, 3:10-11, 4:11-16, 5:25-27; Galatians 6:10; I Peter 4:10; Matthew 16:18; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Malachi 3:8-10; Luke 11:42; I Corinthians 11:23-26. From these scriptures we can identify at least 12 benefits including:

- 1) Shows obedience to God and His word (Hebrews 10:24-25), and Jesus Himself made it a practice to attend church (synagogue) regularly (Luke 4:16).
- 2) Opportunity for Corporate worship
- 3) Opportunity for Corporate fellowship; connecting with and building relationships with other believers
- 4) Benefit from the talents and spiritual gifts of others – we receive God’s grace in its various forms
- 5) Benefiting others by using our talents and spiritual gifts in serving
- 6) Learn from biblical teaching (be equipped) by Pastors, Elders and Teachers
- 7) Be sparked to love and good works

- 8) Participate in the Lord's Supper (communion) – a time of reflection, remembrance, cleansing and unity building
- 9) Opportunity to pray for and pray with others
- 10) Place to bring our tithes and offerings and make eternally significant financial investments
- 11) Support corporate outreach and seeing people get saved, baptized and growing in the Lord (help make disciples)
- 12) A unique opportunity to Love God and Love People