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# Connecting with God's Family

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Free media and discipleship resources for pastors, leaders, and growing disciples.

# Connecting with God's Family

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In the sacred tapestry of God's redemptive plan, the call to a fellowship — a community on God's mission — stands as an enduring thread, woven through Scripture with divine intention. As the apostle Paul reminds us:

*"Now you are Christ's body, and each of you is a member of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27).*

When we receive Christ, we are not merely saved as individuals but baptized into the body of God (1 Corinthians 12:13). Skin color, intellect, social status, occupation, age, or earthly possessions hold no power to exclude; the blood of the Lamb unites us in a bond that is a new bloodline of Christ.

To walk apart from this fellowship is to risk a diminished faith—one starved of the encouragement, correction, and mutual sharpening that Scripture so clearly prescribes. An even greater danger is that a lone believer becomes an easy target and ready prey of the enemy who, "like a roaring lion, is on the prowl looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

The physical body illustrates this mystery with striking clarity. Each member—eye, hand, foot—serves a distinct purpose yet depends upon the others for wholeness (1 Corinthians 12:14-27). So it is with the body of Christ. Isolation cuts us off from the very means God has ordained for our maturity and restoration. The New Testament echoes with "one another" commands: love one another, encourage one another, forgive one another, spur one another toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24-25). This "one another" command is the heartbeat of Christian living.

## Why the Church Matters

The Church matters because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, redeemed her with His own life "so that he may present the church to himself as glorious — not having a stain or wrinkle, or any such blemish, but holy and blameless" (Ephesians 5:27).

The Church is the bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2).

The Church matters because Jesus has redeemed and loves her.

Though history records her failures both within and without, they do not negate the truth of Christ's love and sacrifice.

The Church, at its core, is relational—first with the Triune God and then with one another. The Father desires and delights to unite His children in His Holy Spirit and devotion to His Son.

As the body of Christ, the Church reveals her Head, Jesus, to the world.

When the Church sets herself apart (holy) for God and devotes herself both individually and communally “to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:47) and to love one another as Jesus loved us (John 13:34-35), the world will see “the light of the glorious knowledge of God in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6) through the extraordinary lives of ordinary men and women.

## **Living as Family**

In God's family, the Church, there are no volunteers — only sons and daughters. Every member is indispensable. Just as in a healthy biological family, each person naturally participates in family life in an age-appropriate way, so every believer is called to actively and cooperatively participate in the life, relationships, and mission of the Church.

*“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you too were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:4-6)*

The unity of the Church is truly the unity of a family. Siblings may fight, but they will unite against their family's enemy. Within this family, we are all brothers and sisters with Jesus as the oldest brother. We may have many differences, but we are united in Christ, by the Holy Spirit, and for His Kingdom against the domain and works of the devil.

A healthy family is where younger children are nurtured, mature sons and daughters actively contribute to the Father's business.

As you seek to walk more closely with the Lord, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you with wisdom and clarity into a faithful fellowship of believers. Prayerfully use this [A Practical Guide for Finding a Church](#) as a helpful companion in your search, trusting that the One who calls you into His family will also lead you to the local body of Christ where you can grow and serve together according to His good purpose.

Once God leads you to a local body of Christ, perseverance in that community becomes a school of Christlikeness. In real relationships with imperfect saints walking by the Spirit, humility is learned, patience is cultivated, love is practiced, and faith is proven. It is here that God's love is personally experienced, grace is freely extended, joys and sorrows are shared, His mission is carried out, and true transformation takes place.

At the same time, you play a vital, irreplaceable role in accomplishing the good works God prepared in advance for you and your fellowship, and helping bring the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.