

Discussion Guide

Sermon Synopsis

In our culture, we often view “church” as a place to go, a service to attend, an experience to witness, or a club to join, but none of these are biblical views of the church. While a church may have a facility or a specific meeting spot, the fact is that God never merely called us to “go” to church. He calls us as His children to “be” the church. This reality should radically impact how we live and love today, especially in the body of Christ. In this message, we discover that being “All in” with Jesus means that we are also called to live “all together” as the church. We invite you to listen today to discern your part and place in the Church that He is building and encourage you to commit your life fully to Him.

As a group, read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Question 1: Encourage one another and be willing to be vulnerable together. Has there been a time when you have prioritized other things in life over your participation in, and utilizing your personal giftings for the local Church? What led to this for you? How can you prevent this from occurring in the future?

Question 2: Reflect on the body metaphor used by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. In what ways do you see the local church functioning as a body? Where do you see strengths and where are there areas for improvement? How can each member’s unique gifts better serve to strengthen the body?

Question 3: Paul talks about the interdependence of the body’s members, emphasizing that every part is necessary. Can you identify a time when you felt particularly connected to and needed by your church community? How did this experience affect your faith and your commitment to the church?

Now, as we prepare to go out into the world, let us remember the strength we have when we are united in Christ. We are called not to stand alone, but together, as a beacon of God's love and grace. May we leave this place renewed in spirit, ready to serve, and eager to embody the gospel in every aspect of our lives.

May the Lord bless you and keep you;

May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

May the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.



May 12, 2024

Acts 2:36-47

One Liner of the Week

In our culture, we often view “church” as a place to go, a service to attend, an experience to witness, or a club to join, but none of these are biblical views of the church. While a church may have a facility or a specific meeting spot, the fact is that God never merely called us to “go” to church. He calls us as His children to “be” the church.

Food for the Soul

M: Acts 8:1-40

T: Acts 9:1-43

W: Acts 10:1-48

T: Acts 11:1-30

F: Acts 12:1-25

S: Acts 13:1-52

S: Acts 14:1-28

Leader Guide

We need you. You need us. We need each other if we are to fulfill our calling as a Church.

A fellow Pastor and friend of mine once commented, “*Why is it that when things get hard, and time gets sparse that the first thing we let go of is Church?*” That question has haunted me as I’ve worked in Churches over the last several years. My friend’s statement is, sadly, often accurate. Western culture is one in which busyness is celebrated and setting aside time for things not related to self-advancement is seen as a lack of ambition, drive, and motivation to achieve great things. We often don’t even realize that we are willing participants in this culture of busyness because it’s all we’ve ever known and many of us grew up in homes where the example set by our parents was one where continual hard work was exalted and involvement in the life of a local Church was only as time allowed if at all. Such an attitude towards the Kingdom of God is a clear reflection of the priorities of the one who holds it. Christians who wind up in this mis-prioritized mindset seem to instinctively know that they’re in the wrong. We are excellent at justifying our actions and we often do this by falling into theological errors about Church participation since some of them provide an easy excuse to not be “*All Together*” on a regular basis. These excuses are numerous. They even sound good on the surface. But they fall short when we examine them considering what the Bible teaches. Because what the Bible teaches is that we have been purchased by Christ in His own blood and His purpose and will for us is to be truly “*All Together*” by faithfully participating in the life of a local body of believers, a Church.

What would it look like if all of God’s people prioritized their participation in the local Church above self-advancement, achieving career goals, sports team participation, etc. ? Can you imagine the impact that would have on the Church’s mission to push back the darkness and lostness in this fallen world? I can and it would be impactful, indeed. In fact, when every believer takes being “*All Together*” seriously, the local Church is at its finest and is fully fit to press ahead with the Great Commission. That is because God has gifted each believer with their own special set of skills, talents, and resources that they have the blessing of being able to pour out for the sake of the Kingdom of God. And when all those skills, talents, and resources are present with the others of our fellow believers we are strong and able to run the race set before us as one body the way God intends for us to do it.

This point is precisely what God desires us to learn from the pen of the great Apostle Paul in ***1 Corinthians 12:12-27***. A mind needs an eye to see and an ear to hear. A hand needs fingers to grasp. A foot needs toes to run. A leg needs a foot. The arm needs the hand. The list goes on and on. The reality is this: Without other believers, we as individual believers are severely handicapped in our own personal walk with the Lord, and *we also do the handicapping of the local Church* so that it is not fully manned and equipped to fulfill God’s purpose for it. You can’t “go it alone” and the Church can’t do it without you! The fact of the matter is, *I need you, you need me, and the local Church needs us*. If we are really “*All In for Jesus*”, one of the ways we demonstrate that is by being “*All Together for Jesus*”. So, what do you say we get our priorities straightened up? There’s strength in numbers, friends. So let’s be together as one, unified by one Spirit, one Gospel, one Mission under the banner of the Ruler of Heaven and Earth who is none other than Christ Jesus, Himself. After all, the promise of God is that the gates of Hell will not prevail against His Church. See you in the Lord’s house this Sunday!

And now, receive the blessing the Lord instructed Moses to have Aaron and his sons bestow upon the children of Israel:

***May the Lord bless you and keep you;
May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
May the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.***