



## **BELONGING to the CHURCH**

**Principle:** God's desire is not for you to just attend church, it's for you to **BELONG** to the church. 1 Cor. 1:1-2; 1 Thess. 1:1-3

**Principle:**

There is no such thing in the New Testament as a believer that exists in some sort of random, independent, and free-floating lifestyle that is not **ACTIVE** in a local church. Acts 20:28

### **2000+ Years of The Church has Shown Us:**

- 1. God Speaks to the Church.**
- 2. Speaks Through the Church**
- 3. The Church is the Hope of the World.** Acts 2:41; Acts 5:14; Acts 11:24 Heb. 13:17

**QUESTION - Would I want to be a part of a church if it was made up mostly of people with my level of Belonging?**

### **5 FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS:**

- 1. Jesus STARTED the CHURCH.** Matt. 16:18
- 2. Jesus LOVES the CHURCH.** Eph. 5:25
- 3. Not Actively Belonging to a Church is PROOF that Something is Wrong with You Spiritually.** 1 John 2:19
- 4. Church is Not Just a Place to ATTEND, it's a Place to Participate & Belong.**
- 5. Not Only is Church Important for You, it has the Potential to Impact the World and GENERATIONS to come.**

**My RESPONSE:**

**PLANT MYSELF IN THE LOCAL CHURCH & BELONG.** Ps. 92

1 Cor. 1:1-2 - Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, 2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: 3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thess. 1:1-3 - Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. 2 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:28 - 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.

Acts 2:41 - Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

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

Acts 11:24 - He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were added to the Lord.

Heb. 13:17 - Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account.

Matt. 16:18 - ...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Eph. 5:25 - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

1 John 2:19 (NLT) - These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us.

Ps. 92:12-13 - 12 The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; 13 planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.