

Church! How IMPORTANT is it Biblically to be deeply involved in a healthy Bible believing church?

For Every Christian – the BIGGEST Decision you will ever make is to:

Find the Best Biblical local church you can & to Deeply Invest yourself in that church family. That decision will Determine your DESTINY.

It is the Biggest Factor in

1. **Your** own spiritual life
2. The quality of person you marry
3. ANY forward movement in your marriage
4. **Your** children's spiritual lives.

Sadly many people learn the painful truth of this truth too late to save their marriage or their children's spiritual lives.

The Bible is forcefully clear that the degree that you love Jesus is shown most clearly in how deeply you love and serve your local church family.

Let's look at what God's Word says about this.

Gal. 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, **ESPECIALLY** to those who belong to the **Family of Believers**.

This powerful verse teaches three things.

1. *It follows the challenging verses about "Sowing" and "Reaping" in Gal. 6:7-8. Faithful church people come to church to GIVE. They are "Sowers". People who disdain church come to church to GET. They are "Takers".*
2. *Secondly it teaches us that our top priority in serving others is our church family.*
3. *Thirdly our local church should be a "Family". It takes years of serving, stability and love for each person to develop their local church into a FAMILY.*

Matt 24:12 Because of the **INCREASE** of **WICKEDNESS**, the **LOVE** of **most** will grow **COLD**,
With this verse we get to the root of the issue.

For two thousand years, hundreds of millions of Christians understood that the first outward sign of their love for Jesus is their love for their local church family.

Only now, in this "End Times" age, has the great deception arisen that church is "Optional".

In every case of every single deceived person who calls themselves a Christian and YET tries to convince others that being deeply involved in a healthy local church is "Optional"

All of these deceived people have one trait in common. They are SELFISH.

They constantly talk about how the church has not done enough for them. They have only been involved in 4-5 churches in their life, yet they have decided that ALL churches are messed up, greedy and a waste of time. They try to distract you from their own selfishness by throwing stones.

We are commanded to find the healthiest Bible believing church and then come in with a heart to SERVE our church family.

Eph. 4:11-16 It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,¹² to **PREPARE God's people** for **WORKS of SERVICE**, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³ until we **all reach unity**

in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the **whole measure** of the **fullness of Christ**.¹⁴ Then we will **no longer** be **infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching** and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in **all things grow up** into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.¹⁶ From him the **whole body, JOINED and held together by EVERY SUPPORTING LIGAMENT, grows and builds itself up in love, as EACH PART does IT'S WORK.**

This stirring passage loudly teaches us three things.

1. *It is the job of local church Pastors and Leaders to TRAIN God's people in how to SERVE.*
2. *This close, safe relational rubbing is how we GROW up spiritually.*
3. *Verse 16 SHOUTS THAT every Christian is to be DEEPLY CONNECTED in their church.*

Luke 6:40 A student is **NOT ABOVE** his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be **LIKE** his teacher.

This key statement by Jesus teaches us three things.

1. *You can NOT join a church where the Leaders do NOT live and believe the Bible as God's Word. If you do, you will NOT change them, but they will change you.*
2. *Everyone has a teacher. If your teacher is not a local church Pastor and Leaders, then your teacher is probably the world. Thus, your life will eventually resemble the lives of those in the world.*
3. *This verse is also a great promise. If you deeply commit to your local church family, then all of the Anointing, Godliness and Wisdom of your church leaders will eventually become YOUR Anointing, YOUR Godliness and YOUR Wisdom.*

I Cor. 12¹ Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.² You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols.³ Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.⁶ There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

¹² The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

¹⁴ Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹ **The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!”** ²² **On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,** ²³ **and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,** ²⁴ **while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it,** ²⁵ **so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.** ²⁶ **If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.**

²⁷ **Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.** ²⁸ **And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.** ²⁹ **Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But eagerly desire the greater gifts.**

This ENTIRE CHAPTER is devoted to forcefully impressing upon our minds how deeply we are to be connected into a healthy local church family.

The phrase “I don’t NEED you” is the DECEPTION that Paul attacks over and over again.

Romans 12- ¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. ⁴ Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸ if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This ENTIRE CHAPTER is ALSO devoted to forcefully impressing upon our minds how deeply we are to be connected into a healthy local church family.

- 1. I Corinthians**
- 2. II Corinthians**
- 3. Galatians**
- 4. Ephesians**
- 5. Philippians**
- 6. Colossians**
- 7. I Thessalonians**

8. II Thessalonians

These eight books of the N.T. were NOT written to INDIVIDUAL Christians. They were written to the LOCAL CHURCH.

I John 1:1 through 5:21

The ENTIRE BOOK of I John was written to teach the truth that the “The degree that you love Jesus is shown most clearly in how deeply you love and serve your local church family.”

This truth is also repeated in EVERY BOOK of the New Testament.

Matthew 22:39-40 ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Mark 12:31 -The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Luke 10:27 He answered: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’ ; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

John 15:12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

I Corinthians 12:21-26 ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

II Corinthians 8:8 I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, ESPECIALLY to those who belong to the family of believers.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Philippians 1:27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you **stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man** for the faith of the gospel

Colossians 1:3-4 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the **love you have for all the saints**

I Thessalonians 1:2-3 We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. ³ We continually 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.

II Thessalonians 1:3 We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the **love every one of you has for each other is increasing.**

I Timothy 3:13 Those who have **served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance** in their faith in Christ Jesus.

II Timothy 4:1-5 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² **Preach the Word**; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with **great patience and careful instruction.** ³ For the time will come when **men will not put up with sound doctrine.** Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Titus 3:1-2 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ² to slander no one, to be **peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.**

Philemon 1:7 Your love has given me **great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.**

Hebrews 10:25 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.

James 2:2, 8 ² Suppose a man comes into your **MEETING** ⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, **“Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right**

1 Peter 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves by **obeying the truth** so that you have sincere love for your **brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.**

II Peter 1:5-9 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to **brotherly kindness, love.** ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in **increasing** measure, they will **keep** you from **being ineffective and unproductive** in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But if **anyone does not have them**, he is **nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.**

1 John 3:10 This is **how we know who the children of God** are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is **anyone** who does **not love his brother.**

II John 1:4-5 It has given me great joy to find some of **your children walking in the truth**, just as the Father commanded us. ⁵ And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we **love one another.**

II John 1:3-4 It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your **faithfulness to the truth** and how you continue to walk in the truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that **my children are walking in the truth.**

Jude 1:17-21 But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the **last times** there will be **scoffers** who will **follow their own ungodly desires.**” ¹⁹ These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

²⁰ But you, dear friends, **build yourselves up in your most holy faith** and pray in the Holy Spirit. ²¹ **Keep yourselves in God’s love** as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Revelation 2:19 I know your deeds, your **love** and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.