

# Why Church?

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- I. The Spirit of God causes us to “devote” ourselves to “fellowship” (*koinonia*) with other believers (Acts 2:42-47).**
  - A. Koinonia: “a sharing of friendship with other believers” (Acts 2:42)
  - B. Key words for koinonia: partnership, or association, practical sharing, friendship
  - C. Two structures for koinonia: large gatherings (temple courts), smaller gatherings (homes), publicly and from house to house, example of Jesus (Acts 20:20), 20/20 vision
  
- II. God uses fellowship with other believers to meet many of our deepest needs.**
  - A. Our most important need (salvation) is usually met through other people (John 20:21-22; II Corinthians 5:17-20). God gave us the ministry of reconciliation.
  - B. Why God ministers through the committed relationships of the local church
    1. Family and friendship are natural providers (Proverbs 27:10; 17:17).
    2. Jesus and His Spirit dwell where Christians gather (Matthew 18:18-20).
    3. The body metaphor is functional; proximity is the key (I Corinthians 12:12-26).
  
- III. Experiencing “the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-16)**
  - A. The phrase “whole measure” is used twice in Ephesians (Ephesians 4:13; 3:14-19).
  - B. When everyone contributes in love, the Body becomes mature (Ephesians 4:16).
  - C. There are key leadership gifts that equip people to release their gifts (Ephesians. 4:11, 12).
  - D. Exploring gift lists (I Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:6-8).
  
- IV. The Body of Christ gives special attention to the weak (I Corinthians 12:21-26).**
  - A. It is the nature of God to pay special attention to the weak (Isaiah 61:1-3; Psalm 68:5, 6).
  - B. It is the ministry to the weak that displays God’s splendor (Isaiah 61:3, 4).
  - C. The weak and the strong sometimes change places (II Corinthians 8:13-15).
  - D. Koinonia is a two-way street (partnership). Everyone has something to give at all times. In fact, “Power is made perfect in weakness” (II Corinthians 12:9, 10).
  
- V. To live disconnected from a local church is unwise. “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment” (Proverbs 18:1 NKJV).**
  - A. Jesus uses the Body of Christ to provide, protect, and multiply.
  - B. “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:12; I Peter 5:8).
  - C. We need allies and friends. “Two are better than one” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).
  - D. Many united, connected believers can experience great “blessing” (Psalm 133) and “much grace” (Acts 4:32-35).
  - E. Smaller groups and larger public gatherings provide multiplied opportunities for ministry (Acts 2:1-8, 46-47; 20:20—20/20 vision).
  - F. Other examples: Acts 6:1-7—food distribution and more disciples; Galatians 6:1, 2—restoration; James 5:16-20—answered healing prayer; Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24, 25—encouragement; Proverbs 15:22—wisdom with many advisers