

Christianity is not a spectator sport II

Being a Participant (Not just a spectator)

Ephesians 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

6. Being a part of a ministry (Luke 10:2)

1 Timothy 3:1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

7. Teachers: (Hebrews 5:11-14)

8. Being a giver, not just a receiver

Acts 20:35 "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Many times: 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people

9. Your life and home is a ministry:

Benefits of home bible studies:

- Bible study teachers get to exercise their gifts
- Everybody looks up scriptures
- Everyone prays for one another
- You are not looking for a building
- Discipleship takes place
- Facilitates fellowship (we get involved in one another's lives)
- We become unselfish with our homes

Acts 2:46-47

Acts 5:42

Acts 20:20

10. Membership (Join yourself to a body in relationship and commitment)

Reasons why people don't become members of a local church:

- Fearful of commitment
- Unforgiveness toward past churches, pastors
- Rebellion against organized religion (from 60's, 70's)
- Burn out from the past

Importance of Membership:

God says it is *He* who places the members in the body (Cor. 12:18) and that we each need to submit to the Godly leaders whom He has placed over us in the local church (Heb. 13:7,17, 1 Thes. 5:12)

He calls us to meet with fellow believers for worship, teaching and edification. (Heb. 10:24-25) and to use the gifting(s) He has placed within us to bless others. This, in turn is when we are the most blessed!

As a born-again, child of God, the most important roll to have our name on is the Lambs Book of Life (Luke 10:20), and when we are, we become a family. "For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body." If that is the case, how do you join yourselves to a local body?

We believe the first step is by commitment, letting the Lord plant our roots deep so we can grow and become fruitful. (Col. 1:10, 2:6, Eph. 3:17). If you feel that God has placed you to become a part of this body, please let us know and we will help you find your place of ministry.

Conclusion:

Q) Are you a spectator or a participant?

Q) What gifts do you have that you are not exercising?

Q) Are you a giver, or just a receiver?

Q) Would you be willing to open up your house for ministry twice a month on a Tuesday or to attend bible study?