

A Member of the Local Church

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Introduction

- **When a person obeys the gospel of Jesus Christ,...**
 - They are added to the body. ***Acts 2:38, 41, 47***
 - They become a member of the household of God. ***Eph 2:19-22***
 - They join themselves to a local church, a local body of believers.

A Member of the Local Church...

- **Is joined to local churches. For example...**
 - Believers in Jerusalem.
 - Believers in Antioch.
 - Believers in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch.
 - Believers in Corinth and Rome.
 - Believers in Philippi and Colossae.
 - Believers in Thessalonica.
 - Believers in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

A Member of the Local Church...

- **Is joined to local churches. For example...**
 - Paul, after his conversion. ***Acts 9:26-28***
 - *“he tried to **join** the disciples; but they were all afraid of him,...”*
 - *Join = “kollaō; to glue,...to stick (figuratively): — cleave, join (self), keep company.” (Vine’s)*
 - *The brethren, including the apostles, were “afraid” of Paul.*
 - *After hearing, they accepted Paul and “he was with them.”*

A Member of the Local Church...

- **Is a working member. *Cf. Rom 12:3-8***
 - We worship the Lord together.
 - Through songs of praise.
 - Through prayers of thanksgiving.
 - Through remembering the Lord's death.
 - Through studying His word.
 - The modern phrase is “corporate worship.”
 - The New Testament phrase would be the “assembling of ourselves together.” ***Heb 10:25***

A Member of the Local Church...

- **Is a working member. *Cf. Rom 12:3-8***
 - We edify one another. ***1 Cor 14:26***
 - Through assembling together. ***Heb 10:24-25***
 - We have been sanctified. *vs 10*
 - We have been “perfected.” *vs 14*
 - We have boldness to enter the Holiest. *vs 19*
 - We hold fast the confession of our hope. *vs 23*
 - If we willfully walk away from what Jesus has done for us, then there remains no more sacrifice. *vs 26-31*

**Helps Keep Us
Faithful**

A Member of the Local Church...

- **Is a working member. *Cf. Rom 12:3-8***
 - We edify one another. ***1 Cor 14:26***
 - Through assembling together. ***Heb 10:24-25***
 - Through correction. ***Gal 6:1-2; James 5:19-20***
 - Through love and unity. ***Phil 2:1-4***

A Member of the Local Church...

- **Is a working member. *Cf. Rom 12:3-8***
 - Submit to the elders. *Heb 13:17*
 - Benevolence to other Christians. *Gal 6:10*
 - Support the work of the local church.
1 Tim 3:14-15
 - The church is the “pillar and ground of truth.”
 - As a member of this body, you join with others to uphold the truth.

Conclusion

- **Being joined to a local church means:**
 - You edify one another through...
 - Assembling together to worship the Lord.
 - Through mutual correction and admonition.
 - Through love and unity.
 - You submit unto the elders,
 - You exercise benevolence.
 - You support the work of the local church.