

His Body: Christ-Followers Are His Body and Need One Another

(based on Tim Howey's sermon)

The church is Jesus' plan, **Mat 16:18**.

Why Aren't More People Part of a Church?

1. They think the church doesn't need them, **1Cor12:15-19**.
 - They think they are different than those in the church.
 - They don't realize that different is a good thing. A thriving church needs many members who are diversified and connected.
 - None of us is perfect. We each have different strengths and weaknesses. We need to knit those together for our overall benefit and to please God.
 - As part of a church, God wants you to please Him, not yourself.
 - Those who get all the attention don't please God more than those who are humble and work behind the scenes to support His church.
 - The key is to keep asking God to show you how He wants you to use your gifts to please Him.
2. They think they don't need a church, **1Cor12:20-27**.
 - Just like a hand needs to be attached to a body to live, you need to be attached to a church body to be spiritually alive. You need mutual encouragement and accountability to keep pointing you to God's way.
 - We are imperfect people and sometimes we hurt one another. Don't let some bad experiences stop you from finding a church where you can serve God as He desires.
 - There will be people who grate on your nerves. We call those EGRs = extra grace required. Extend them grace. Realize that you are an EGR to God.

The Way Out of Loneliness

- Pay your dues by extending love to others.
- Process steps = stranger > acquaintance > friend
- When the process works, it takes about 90 hours.
- The process won't always work. Ask God how He wants you to proceed if the person doesn't want to engage with you on a deep level.
- *He who has friends must show himself friendly, Pro 18:24.*

Tips to Develop Friends

- Start a conversation.
- Ask the person about themselves.
- Invite them to something you are doing related to your church (*ministry where you are serving, small group you are attending, outreach event in the community, worship service*).

Questions

- Do you understand that you have gifts that a church needs? (*It may take time to find out what they are. Consider serving in a few different ministries and ask God to show you which one is His choice for you.*)
- Do you understand that you can grow closer to God and help others do the same, if you are active in a church?

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