

## What Does the Bible Say About the “Body of Christ”?

- The bible commands that we are to be part of the “Body of Christ,” which is the church (**Romans 12:3-16, Ephesians 4:11-12 and v.16**)
- God has both called and created us to work together as one, unified body of believers (**1 Corinthians 12:12-31**)
  - Through the corporate body of Christ (the Church), we are able to *collectively* do things that we couldn’t do *individually*. Through the Church, we are better able to grow as individuals and impact our community for God’s glory. (**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Proverbs 27:17, Matthew 18:20**)

## Why Should I Go to Church?

- The bible commands us to “not neglect meeting together” in order that we might stir up love and good works among each other. (**Hebrews 10:24-25**)
- Believers throughout scripture gathered together to worship.
  - Old Testament: the tabernacle was at the center of the Jewish camp (**Numbers 2:17**).
  - New Testament: Early Christians went to the temple regularly and met with other believers (**Acts 2:46, Acts 3:1, Acts 5:12, Acts 5:20-26, Acts 5:42**)
    - Jesus also commonly went to the temple (**Luke 2:21-24, Luke 2:41-52, Matthew 21:12-13, John 7:14**)
- God never intended us to be “loners.” (**Genesis 2:18**)
  - If you fall, the church can be there to help pick you up. (**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**)
- We’re strengthened in faith by being around other believers. (**Proverbs 27:17**)
- While God can meet us, individually, at any place, He has *promised* us that when we corporately gather together in His name, He will meet us there. (**Matthew 18:20**)
- Churches provide for our spiritual and social needs (**Acts 2:42**)
  - Spiritual: prayer and apostle’s teaching
  - Social: fellowship and breaking of bread

## What about Problems in the Church?

- The Church is filled with imperfect people! Jesus is actively working on the lives of believers, but imperfect people sometimes do imperfect things. (**Luke 5:31-32**).
- We are personally called to be part of the solution. (**Ephesians 4:2-3**)
- The Church is the “bride of Christ.” While the Church sometimes acts like “bridezilla,” God loved it enough that He was willing to die for it. (**Ephesians 5:25-27**)
  - Jesus is coming back for “his bride” one day, and you should be part of it when He does! (**Revelation 19:7-9**)