

Church & Community

1. The church is one. Eph. 4:3–6. ... endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

2. The church is one body with many functions; each member has a purpose. Rom. 12:4–8. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

3. Together, Christians constitute God's household, in which he lives by his Spirit. Eph. 2:19–22. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Je-sus Christ Himself

being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

4. Keep the unity of believers; don't follow men, but Christ. 1 Cor. 1:10–17. 1 Cor. 1:11–13. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

5. Gifts of the Spirit differ. Each member must use his or her gifts to serve others. Eph. 4:11–13. And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; **1 Cor. 12:1–11.**

6. Each member of the body is necessary. We need one another. 1 Cor. 12:12–31.

7. Christ is the head of the church, his body. Eph.

1:20–23. Eph. 1:22–23. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. **Eph. 5:23.** For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

8. Christ loves the church. Eph. 5:25. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.

9. Attend worship services faithfully. Heb. 10:25. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

10. The psalmist longed for the house of God. Ps. 84.

11. The meaning of the communion of the saints is beautifully taught in Paul's letter to Philemon. The book of Philemon. (*Paul writes the letter to his "dear friend and fellow worker" on behalf of Onesimus, urging Philemon to receive him back as a "dear brother."*) **Phm. 10–12.** I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to

me. I am sending him back. You therefore receive him,
that is, my own heart.