

November 12, 2023

Your Connection to the Local Church

by Ken Weliever

“You can be a good Christian and not go to church,” is a sentiment I’ve heard expressed by many people through the years.

My good friend, preaching colleague, and owner of Spiritbuilding Publishers, Matt Allen, recently posted on facebook a clear and concise rebuttal to that notion.

A good connection to the church matters little if I am not where I need to be in my relationship with Christ. A strong relationship with Christ equals a strong relationship with the church as the two things go hand in hand. Likewise, a poor relationship with Christ equals a detached reality with the church. The claim so many are making today that I can have Christ without the church is blatantly false and leads to utter spiritual ruin. You cannot have Christ and not be a part of the church.

Perhaps the clearest passage that illustrates this is Ephesians 1.22-23: “And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.”

Note how this is a statement of union ... of one-flesh connectedness. You cannot have one without the other. What good is your head without the body? What good is your body without a head? The head directs the body and has authority over it, 1.22. The head needs the body in full-functioning

form for effective action in the world. It is profound when we think of how the Son of God has humbly attached himself to an imperfect body (saints who believe in Him) and loved it. He has filled the body with the Spirit for the work of transformation so in the end He may present it (you) to the Father without spot or wrinkle... but holy and blameless, Ephesians 5.27. If we neglect the church, we neglect Jesus.

Charles Spurgeon also saw the importance of the local church when he said: “I believe that every Christian ought be joined to some visible church – that is his plain duty according to the scriptures. God’s people are not dogs, otherwise they might go about one by one. They are sheep and, therefore, they should be in flocks.”

It is impossible to have Jesus but not the church. If we are in union with Christ, the head, then we are necessarily also connected to his body, the church. Christ is inseparably identified with his people and if we neglect the church, we neglect Jesus.

Assembling with the local church is something special. When coming together every week, you are participating in something that is timeless and vast. Spiritually we all make up the universal church, which is “the totality of God’s people under the New Covenant.”

The Hebrew writer said it this way: you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God (the heavenly Jerusalem), to

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies’ Class - Tuesday, November 14 at 10 a.m.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

myriads of angels, a festive gathering, to the assembly of the firstborn whose names have been written in heaven, to a Judge, who is God of all, to the spirits of righteous people made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which says better things than the blood of Abel, Hebrews 12.18-19; 22-24a.

We have all come to a spiritual mountain and are part of the universal church. We are already participants in this gathering, but there is more. Each week the Cornerstone family comes together for a particular and special purpose. We gather in the presence of the Lord for the purpose of hearing and responding to his word. Isn't it wonderful to know we have been drawn together by God into a family? As a member of His church, you are part of His family of believers. We are all part of a building that is being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit, Ephesians 2.21-22. O blessed thought! When God draws people to Himself, He draws them into a family!

How valuable is that?

Let me encourage you to find a church family in your community. One that honors Christ, exalts the Bible as its authority, and has a scriptural mission, ministry, and message.

Matt is right. Being a part of a church family adds great value to your life. Both now. And in the life to come.

{used with permission from thepreachersword.com}

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson's lymphoma has returned and is undergoing chemo.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Vicki Stevens has cancer and is undergoing treatment.

Debbie McMurray is undergoing immunotherapy. PET results this week were encouraging.

Mike McMurray is regaining strength.

Terry Behrns is recovering at his sister's home Nov 3.

Harold Hammons is in Granite Mesa, room 308

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

Darrell Trammel
512-756-4493 Office
Darrell@
oakswestchurchofChrist.com

Elders

George Gresham
Darrell Trammel

Contact Us

Address:
P.O. Box 675
Burnet, TX 78611

Call:
(512) 756-4493

E-Mail:
oakswestchurch@gmail.com

Website:
oakswestchurchofchrist.com