

BUILDING A STRONG CONNECTION

2 Cor. 8:5, Rom 12:5

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Habits Learned from “Building a Strong Spirit”

Get into God’s Word every day, ***Get together with God’s People every week***, Give back to God every Month

WHY ARE CONNECTIONS SO IMPORTANT?

2 Corinthians 8:5 (TEV) *“First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God’s will they gave themselves to us as well.”*

Romans 12:5 (GW) *“Even though we are many individuals, Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other.”*

BEING CONNECTED TO GOD’S CHURCH

1. IT CONNECTS ME TO GOD’S ETERNAL TEMPLE. (_____)

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NLT) *“Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?”*

Ephesians 2:21 *“We who believe are carefully joined together, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.”*

Ephesians 2:22 (NIV) *“And in Christ, you are being built together to become a dwelling place in which God lives by his Spirit!”*

Lessons from rebuilding

1. You can’t build it with just **one part**.
2. All the parts have to **fit together**.
3. A part is useless until it’s **connected**.
4. A part can be inside of the house and still not be a part **of the house**.

The BENEFIT: _____ and _____

1 Timothy 3:15 (NIV) *“... the church of the living God is the pillar and the foundation of the truth.”*

2. IT CONNECTS ME TO CHRIST’S BODY. (_____)

Ephesians 1:22-23 (NLT) *“God has put everything under the authority of Christ, and God gave him this authority for the benefit of his church, which is the Body of Christ.”*

Ephesians 4:25b (Mes) *“In Christ’s Body we’re all connected to each other . . .”*

Romans 12:4-5 (LB) *“Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ’s Body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.”*

five things that we need to know.

1. First it says that the church is **many parts**.
2. Then he says every part is needed to make the body **complete**.
3. We all have **different roles** to play in the church.
4. Never confuse prominence with **significance**.
5. We each have a **different job** to do.

IMPORTANT THOUGHT: I cannot fulfill God's purpose for my life by myself.

Colossians 2:19 (NLT) "They are not connected to Christ, the head of the Body. But we are joined together in his body by his strong sinews, and we grow only as we get our nourishment and strength from God."

The BENEFIT: I get _____ and _____

3. IT CONNECTS ME TO THE POWER OF JESUS. (_____)

John 15:5 (NIV) Jesus said, "I am the Vine and you are the branches! If you stay connected to me and I am connected to you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:4 (GW) "A branch cannot produce any fruit by itself. It has to stay attached to the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce fruit unless you live in me."

Galatians 5:22-23 "The fruit of the Spirit is love and joy and peace and patience and kindness and goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control."

The BENEFIT: I get God's _____ to _____!

4. IT CONNECTS ME TO GOD'S FAMILY. (_____)

Romans 8:16 (TEV) "God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children."

1 Timothy 3:15 (GW) "I want you to know how people who are members of God's family must live. God's family is the church . . ."

1 Peter 2:17 (NCV) "Love your brothers and sisters in God's family!"

Colossians 3:14 "Most important, love each other. Love is what holds you all together in perfect unity."

The BENEFIT: I'm _____ and I'm _____!

CONCLUSION

Paul talks about **two kinds of commitments** and he says this

2 Corinthians 8:5. "First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God's will they gave themselves to us as well."

- **1st**--You become a Christian by committing yourself _____.
Salvation----inviting Christ in your life
- **2nd**--You become a church member by committing yourself to a _____.

Membership--- (also is listed on the back of your bulletin)

- a) Profession of Faith in Christ followed by believer's baptism (Profession of Faith)
- b) Transfer of membership from a Baptist church of like faith and order (by Letter)
- c) Statement of your own Christian experience and biblical baptism.(By Statement)
- d) By Baptism if you know yourself to be a Christian but are of another denomination. (By Baptism)