



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

Members of the Body of Christ

Preached by Daniel Grothe

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Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

Part three of sermon series "Life in the Church" focuses on what it means to be members of the Body of Christ. Drawing from Ephesians 1 and Romans 12, Pastor Daniel teaches that the Church is not merely a symbolic body but the actual, physical representation of Jesus in the world. Because the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer, Christians carry the presence of Jesus into the spaces they occupy - from grocery stores to hospitals to schools - making Jesus visible to those around them.

The sermon also explores the historical practice of early Christians taking four vows: chastity, charity, obedience to Scripture, and stability in place. These vows reflect a deep commitment not only to Jesus but to one another. Pastor Daniel challenges the congregation to move beyond a consumer mindset of church attendance and into genuine membership in the Body of Christ, where each person belongs to others and carries responsibility for others.

Key Passages

- Ephesians 1:22-23
- Romans 12:4-5
- John 16:7
- John 14:12
- Acts 2:47
- Psalm 119:11

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father, we come before You today as a group of people who want to know You more deeply and love one another more faithfully. As we open Your Word and discuss what it means to be members of the Body of Christ, we ask that You would soften our hearts and open our eyes. Remove any distractions, any pride, or any walls that would keep us from hearing what You want to say to us today. Holy Spirit, have full permission in this room. Speak to each of us individually and to all of us together. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What is one job, role, or responsibility you have held in your life that taught you how important it is to work as part of a team?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.

1. Pastor Daniel said, 'We the Church are the way that God goes in the world.' What do you think he meant, and how does it change the way you think about your everyday life?
2. Jesus told His disciples in John 16:7 that it was better for them that He go away so the Holy Spirit could come. Why do you think that was such a hard thing for the disciples to hear, and what does it mean for us today?
3. Romans 12:5 says that each member belongs to all the others. In what practical ways does belonging to Jesus also mean belonging to the people in your church?
4. The sermon described a woman who came to a church gathering out of curiosity and gave her life to Jesus simply because she observed a group of people who genuinely loved one another. What does that story tell us about the power of Christian community as a witness to the world?
5. Pastor Daniel mentioned four historical vows that early Christians took: chastity, charity, obedience to Scripture, and stability in place. Which of these four feels most challenging for you personally, and why?

6. The vow of stability in place means committing to stay rooted in a community rather than leaving when things get difficult. How does our culture work against that commitment, and what would it look like to resist that pressure?
7. The sermon compared a Christian disconnected from the Body of Christ to a kneecap or shoulder sitting in a box collecting dust. What gifts, abilities, or experiences do you have that the Body of Christ needs, and are you currently using them?
8. Pastor Daniel read a prayer that said, 'When it is good, we will be grateful. When it is bad, we will be stable.' What does stability in community look like during hard seasons, and can you share a time when someone in the church was that kind of stability for you?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

This week, choose one intentional act that reflects your membership in the Body of Christ. It could be as simple as making genuine eye contact and speaking a kind word to a service worker, praying daily for someone in your church who is going through a hard season, or reaching out to someone you have been meaning to reconnect with. Come back next week ready to share what happened when you showed up as the physical representation of Jesus in that moment.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before dismissing.

- The Church is not a symbolic body of Christ but the actual, Spirit-filled representation of Jesus in the world. Wherever believers go, Jesus goes with them.
- Because Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father and sent the Holy Spirit, his presence is multiplied through billions of believers across the globe, making his reach far greater than during His earthly ministry.
- Belonging to Jesus means belonging to one another. Christian membership in the Body of Christ carries real responsibilities and duties toward fellow believers, not just a personal relationship with God.
- The early church practiced four vows: chastity, charity, obedience to Scripture, and stability in place. These commitments reflect what it looks like to be fully devoted members of the Body of Christ.
- When the Body of Christ functions together in unity and love, the Lord adds to the church those who are being saved, as seen in Acts 2:47. A unified, loving community is one of the most powerful witnesses to the world.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time together around Your Word. Thank You for the reminder that we are not just individuals who happen to attend the same building, but members of one body, each belonging to the others. Forgive us for the times we have lived as disconnected parts, sitting in the corner when You designed us to function together. Holy Spirit, fill each person in this group afresh. Give us eyes to see the people around us who need the love of Jesus. Give us the courage to stay rooted, to serve generously, and to love honestly even when it is hard. May Colorado Springs, and every city represented in this group, feel the difference because Your people showed up. We commit ourselves to You and to one another. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, **Amen.**