

## ***The Importance of Church Involvement***

*"That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3).*

Church involvement is important for many reasons... To start with humor, if it's a Baptist church then you might benefit from the potluck meals. Being an active member in a body of believers of course goes beyond the stomach and to the soul. When you are joined together in the Body of Christ you build Christ-centered friendships. You are edified in the faith through mutual upbuilding. You can glean from years of wisdom from seasoned saints in the congregation. You can learn from younger Christians maybe even the toddlers during the children's sermon. You can look around during a church service and draw encouragement thinking to yourself: *"I'm not alone on my journey of faith... and I'm not alone in this hard game of life... I am a part of a team that genuinely cares for me and wants to help me..."*

You see, church membership is vital for the Christian's growth in grace and walk with Christ. Pastor David Platt goes as far as saying that: *"Eternal security is accomplished through community."* Meaning that if we as Christians are going to persevere in the faith, then we need the people of faith to help us along the way. And in the same breath, we need to be a help to those around us, encouraging them and pointing them to Christ. Jesus promises to get us to the finish line, but He uses the means of His people (the Church) to get us there.

I know just by way of experience that if I was a single sheep and not part of the flock of God then my faith wouldn't be as strong as it is. I wouldn't make it long at all before the wolves of this world would devour me... You see, in the community of Christ, my sins become exposed, which forces me to look to my Savior's sufficient grace! My bad habits find the place and grace of correction in the household of God. And my Christian integrity is sharpened by the axe of the Savior (His very own people).

John points us to an amazing truth about this sweet and divine "fellowship." As Christians when we are together as the Spirit moves among us, the Father and the Son fellowship with us. What an amazing reality this is that the Triune God when we are together comes to meet and fellowship with us (Matthew 18:20). But if we neglect this as the writer of Hebrews warns against (10:25). Then we miss the fuller sense of walking with Christ...

And so, does your church involvement matter? Absolutely, for the church better connects you to the Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Respect the Blood,  
Dalton Mathis