

CHURCH IS HARD

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement.
Church is hard for the pastor, under the microscope of the entire congregation.
Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.
Church is hard for the girl or boy who looks like they have it all together but does not.
Church is hard for the couple who fought during the entire drive to service.
Church is hard for the single mom or dad, surrounded by seemingly perfect families.
Church is hard for the widow or widower with no invitation to lunch after service.
Church is hard for the elder or deacon insecure in his role as a leader.
Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.
Church is hard for the husband who longs to be loved and supported by a good woman.
Church is hard for the single woman or man, praying God brings them a soul mate.
Church is hard for all sinners.

But here is the beauty of having fellowship in a church —

Church is a body, a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in community as saints.
Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.
Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.
Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.
Church is where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.
Church is a lesson in faith and trust, a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.
Church is a family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, and rejoicing in victories.
Church is a circle of sinners-turned-saints, the body of Christ, and where He comes to us faithfully.

So even on the hard days in church —

Those days when we are at odds with a friend or family member, when we've fought with our spouses once again. When we've walked bearing burdens heavier than our heart can handle yet masking the pain with a smile on our face. When we've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away.

We should always remember, He has never failed to meet us here.... In Church!

Amen.