

WELCOME PLACE A, B, C'S

CALLED

VIDEO – CALLED

A lot of people are CONFUSED about CHURCH. Especially what the Church's IDENTITY is.

The Greek word for *CHURCH* in the New Testament is "*ekklesia*". Ekklesia means "TO CALL OUT."

God has CALLED OUT HIS CHURCH. His Word tells The Church, **"You are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for HE CALLED you out of the darkness into HIS wonderful light."** (1 Peter 2:9)

CHURCH is NOT a place we go... The Church is a CALLED OUT BODY BELIEVERS.

We need the Church and the Church needs us.

It has been said... *"I can have a relationship with Jesus without the Church..." AND YOU CAN, Just as you can be married and never go HOME... But in both cases, your relationship with your significant other will suffer.*

"Saying you believe in Jesus, but you don't believe in HIS CHURCH" is like... saying...

- You believe in bacon... but not the hog,
- It's like believing in milk and not the cow,
- It's like believing in steak and not the steer!

It doesn't make any sense... Being a Christian without being a part of THE BODY OF CHRIST is like being a soldier without being in the Army. For the church is the body of Christ, and every repentant, baptized believer is a part of the body of CHRIST... THE Church.

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READ 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Each part of the BODY has specific PURPOSE. Therefore, we all NEED one another. The body cannot walk without feet, it cannot see without eyes or eat without a mouth. Just the same, all who are CALLED the church have a specific PURPOSE to the BODY.

What is your PURPOSE in THE BODY?

What TALENT'S has God given you that could BUILD UP THE BODY?

Maybe you are wondering, "What are my gifts?"

What do you do well? To help remind you of what you do well... Let me suggest that you,

1. Examine your passions...
2. Know that you are gifted...
3. Give yourself to GOD... **"Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."** (Romans 12:2)

God didn't put PASSION in you for nothing... PASSION determines our PURSUIT'S... PURSUIT'S will define our PURPOSE in this world.

With all of that taken into account, what is your Purpose here on the earth? If it is anything short of being the hands and feet of Christ, then you are selling yourself short.

At Smithville Christian Church we have 4 Ministry Teams; WORSHIP, YOUTH, ADULT, FACILITIES. The Ministry Teams give us the opportunity to SERVE in The Church. Where are you interested in SERVING?