

Ephesians Devotional Guide – Part 8

Exercise #1

Some people defend their lack of commitment to a local church by saying: *“I meet with my Christian friends for coffee and that is church for me. After all, Jesus said: ‘where two or three are gathered in My Name, I will be with them’.* What do you think this claim? Consider their quote of Jesus in its context. Read Matthew 18:15-20 and correct such an attitude.

Exercise #2

How is a “group” different than a “local church”? Look up the following verses and answer the question: What makes a group of believers a local church?

I Corinthians 1:2

Titus 1:5

Hebrews 13:17, Acts 20:28

I Corinthians 11:18ff, Acts 2:41

Galatians 3:27-29

Exercise #3

As Ephesians 2 teaches how the Gospel calls us to radical community, reflect on the quotes below and ask yourself how the value of individualism has affected you and our church. Ask God to develop in you a greater conviction about the importance of a communal faith.

Individualism is a way of life that makes the individual supreme or sovereign over everything else. (Randy Frazee)

Individualism, the perception of the world in relation to “me” rather than “us”, may be seen as one of the determining features of our culture. (R.T. France)

Exercise #4

Look ahead to next week’s sermon by reading and meditating on Ephesians 3:1-13. What is the mystery being talked about? Why does Paul have such a high regard for the church? How does your attitude toward the church compare to Paul’s?