

## Why Be Active in a Local Church

Ephesians 4:4-10

### Introduction:

- A. Why some think that being active in the local church is unnecessary.
  - 1. The work is already being done (statistic - \_\_\_\_\_% of the church does all the work).
  - 2. There are plenty of o\_\_\_\_\_ resources where anyone can learn about the Bible (preachers)
  - 3. One does not need to attend church because worship and Bible Study can be done at h\_\_\_\_\_
- B. What would happen if every Christian thought that the local church was unnecessary for them?
  - 1. The Books of A\_\_\_\_\_ would have been very short
  - 2. The r\_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible would be non-existent since all these are about local churches.
  - 3. There would be no churches today
- C. Historically, local churches were planted because
  - 1. Jesus p\_\_\_\_\_ commanded it (Matt 28:28-20; Acts 1:8).
  - 2. Jesus commanded it through the Holy S\_\_\_\_\_ (Jn 16:13; Acts 13:2,3).
- D. Why be active in a local church is answered in Eph 4:4-10.

### Because of what we have in common (4-6)

- A. There is only one b\_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. This is termed the c\_\_\_\_\_ in Eph 1:22,23
  - 2. This refers to a local group of believers who are closely c\_\_\_\_\_ to one another (Rom 12:5).
- B. There is only one Spirit (the Holy Spirit)
  - 1. He i\_\_\_\_\_ each one of us (1Cor 6:19)
  - 2. He c\_\_\_\_\_ us with the Lord (1Cor 6:17)
  - 3. He connects us with one another (1Cor 12:13)
  - 4. Being under His control results in a d\_\_\_\_\_ that God is certainly among us (1Cor 14:25; Jn 13:35)
- C. There is only one h\_\_\_\_\_ of your calling
  - 1. The calling refers to God calling us to f\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (Jn 6:44)
  - 2. The hope of that calling refers to Christ's r\_\_\_\_\_ when He will remove sin and all its effects from the lives of every believer (1Pet 1:13; Titus 2:13; 1Thess 5:23,24)

3. This will not be realized until the g\_\_\_\_\_ is spread to every people group in the world which requires massive cooperation (Matt 24:14; 28:18,19)
- D. There is only one L\_\_\_\_\_
  1. Paul is referring to J\_\_\_\_\_ (see 1Cor 8:6).
  2. We s\_\_\_\_\_ Him.
- E. There is only one f\_\_\_\_\_
  1. Christians wrongly use the above term to refer to various d\_\_\_\_\_ (Baptist faith, Methodist faith, etc)
  2. The above term refers to the kind of faith that s\_\_\_\_\_
- F. There is only one b\_\_\_\_\_
  1. Sometimes this word refers to Spirit baptism and other times to water baptism.
    - a. Everyone in the early church was familiar with water baptism, but not Spirit baptism.
    - b. One must assume that baptism refers to water baptism unless the context tells us that it is connected with the Spirit.
  2. Baptism was the biblical way to publicly c\_\_\_\_\_ one's faith in Christ
  3. Christians all share the same public confession (Rom 6:3,4)
- G. There is only one God and Father of a\_\_\_\_\_ believers.
  1. God is o\_\_\_\_\_ all of us not just some of us (we belong to the same family)
  2. God works t\_\_\_\_\_ all of us not just some of us.
  3. God works i\_\_\_\_\_ all of us, not just some of us.

### **Because of what we have been given (7-10)**

- A. Each one of us has been individually given g\_\_\_\_\_ according to the measure of Christ's gift (NIV – *as Christ apportioned it*; NLT – *through the generosity of Christ*).
  1. The picture is of Jesus specifically m\_\_\_\_\_ out a gift to you, to me, and to each individual believer.
  2. This gift is identified in Paul's comment on Psalm 68:18
    - a. Psalm 68:18 is a song of David that pictures God at w\_\_\_\_\_ with evil and conquering it
    - b. Paul asks what does the statement that the Lord (Adonai) ascended imply but that He d\_\_\_\_\_ first
      - 1) Some think this refers to Jesus coming from heaven to earth as a m\_\_\_\_\_ (Jn 1:1,14)
      - 2) Others think that it refers to Jesus's spirit going to H\_\_\_\_\_ where the dead were imprisoned (1Pet 3:19,20; see also Lk 16:19-31)

- c. After Jesus descended, Paul states that He ascended far a \_\_\_\_\_ all the heavens.
- 1) Paul states that the ascension served the purpose of f \_\_\_\_\_ all things
  - 2) Filling all things corresponds to the victory p \_\_\_\_\_ pictured in verse 8 where God's enemies are displayed and the spoils of war (gifts) are distributed.
- d. The gifts refer to s \_\_\_\_\_ gifts as the remainder of the verses make clear

B. The gift that God has given you (v. 12)

1. The spiritual leadership has been appointed by God to e \_\_\_\_\_ you to use your gift.
2. The purpose of the gift is for you to employ it in the w \_\_\_\_\_ of serving one another
3. The aim of the gift is to b \_\_\_\_\_ up others in a way that results in spiritual growth (v. 16)

C. Application

1. If you have accepted Christ into your life, He gave you a spiritual gift and has p \_\_\_\_\_ you in the body of Christ (1Cor 12:18)
2. You are to s \_\_\_\_\_ this gift
3. You can only share it by being c \_\_\_\_\_ with the church.
4. You are important to the overall e \_\_\_\_\_ of the church.

**Assignment** – prayerfully fill out the following

- |   |                              |                             |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I believe that God's word is true.....                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| I have given my life to Christ.....<br>(see pastor if you have not) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| I want to do what God wants.....                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| I know what God generally wants from me..                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| I know where God wants me to serve.....                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |