



Discipleship Essentials Pathway – Week 11 “From Consumer to Committed”

Ephesians 5:25-32 (NIV)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

The church is a Body, and the church is the Bride.

Acts 2:42–47 (NIV)

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The church is not here primarily to correct the evils of society, but it is here to declare and demonstrate the power of God in Jesus Christ.

From Consumer to Committed:

1. Show up

- The early church didn't meet together because it was convenient but because it was necessary.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- Rejecting the Church is not rejecting people - it's actually resisting God's design for your life.
- The Church is God's plan A to reach the world, shape disciples, heal the broken, and display His glory.

2. Grow up

- Showing up is good, but growing up is the goal.
- The church protects us from the dangers of reckless independence and isolation.
- In scripture, believers were always "belongers".

Revelation 1:13 (NIV)

and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

3. Step up

- Consumers "hold up" but the committed always "step up."

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (NIV)

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether

Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

- Stepping up means finding your position and playing your part.
- Your spiritual gift isn't a private possession; it's a public responsibility.

The power of the church lies in each Christian understanding and exercising their spiritual gifts.
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- Stepping up means speaking out!

Matthew 16:13-18 (NIV)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.