



MEMORY VERSE: EPHESIANS 3:10-12 NLT

10 God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Because of Christ and our faith in him, [d] we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.

*****Remember to listen to this week's sermon, review the Sermon Notes Sheet and complete the discussion questions before attending your Connexion Group.**

INTRODUCTION:

Our church membership is not the same as being a member of a club or a sorority. It is more than helping a social program or visiting a traditional gathering place. Our local church membership serves as our spiritual birth certificate. It is the physical evidence that demonstrates our connection to Body of Christ. Birth certificates, passports and stock certificates are important documents that must be protected and preserved. As such we must love and cherish our connection to our local church. This week's sermon explores our individual commitments to being a "Bodybuilder"; a member who loves their local church by freely giving their time, talent and treasures.

GROUP LESSON DISCUSSION

1. What was most helpful, encouraging, or challenging from this week's sermon?
2. Why do many members of the universal and local church have a sense of entitlement?

Clubs and organizations have membership fees that are due monthly. Could many people view their gifts to the church as a "membership fee"?
What are some expectations you have when you are a paying member of a club or organization?

3. Read the story in the Matthew 20:20-28 NLT. Can you see this scenario happening in the modern church?

If, so describe what the scenario would look like in today's church culture.

4. Most Christians think about what their church offers. They evaluate the preaching, music, children's ministry, location and other amenities. Think about the things you could offer your local church.

List and share the things that you believe you could bring to that ministry.

If you are not doing those things, what are the barriers that keep you from doing them? How can those barriers be overcome?

What step/ (s) will you take to begin serving your local church if not already serving in ministry ?