

Discussion Guide: August 10, 2025

Series: *Church Matters*

Message: *Body Life: Connecting With Your Local Church*

Joe Boerman

Take Home Truth: Like a human body, the church, although diverse in its members, is united by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. As a follower of Jesus, you need the connection provided by the local church.

Focus Passage

1 Corinthians 12:12,13 (CSB): *For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all given one Spirit to drink.*

Threats to Oneness

- Doctrinal differences
- Critical spirit
- Self-centeredness

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been part of a church that was toxic? Explain without giving names.
2. What do you consider most important for a church you want to call home?
3. Joe spoke of major and minor doctrines. He gave examples. How can you tell if a difference is doctrinal or just a preference?
4. Have you ever argued over something going on in a church that was more about your own critical spirit than it was about something that mattered to everyone? Care to explain?
5. Read Acts 2:42-47 (CSB): *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

How can you intentionally help make Immanuel a church that is unified in the essentials of the Christian faith so that others will see an authentic example of a community of believers?

Time of Prayer:

Dear God, make us one so that the world will know we belong to You. Amen