



The Local Church: Invested Community

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

7 Marks of a Biblical Church:

- Seeks the glory of God.
- Centered on the Word (Jesus) and the Word of God.
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Gathering of believers united by faith in Christ.
- United by personal confession in Christ.
- Divinely called to advance the Kingdom of God in the world.
- Different from the world.

The church is an invested community where we serve one another, give for one another, and belong to one another.

Core realities for an invested church community:

- Submits to one another through membership.
- Loves one another through serving.
- Sacrifices for one another through giving.

Though the church honors the state, it does not exist by permission of the state. The church exists by the authorization of Jesus Christ, who has supreme dominion and authority over all things.

“Church membership is a formal relationship between a church and a Christian characterized by the church’s affirmation and oversight of a Christian’s discipleship and the Christian’s submission to living out his or her discipleship in the care of the church.” - Jonathan Leeman, *Church Membership*

Consistently giving:

- Shapes our hearts
- Protects our hearts.

Other Scripture:

Philippians 2:6-8; Acts 4:32-37; Matthew 6:21