

DNA



ONE HOPE
STELLENBOSCH CHURCH

COMMITTING TO LOCAL CHURCH:

GOOD FOR US

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**BEING
MEANINGFULLY PART OF A
COMMITTED COMMUNITY IS
GOD'S IDEA OF WHAT IS
GOOD FOR US**

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ACTS 2:42-47

The Fellowship of the Believers

42And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43**And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44**And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45**And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

ACTS 2:42-47

⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

LOCAL VS. UNIVERSAL CHURCH

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1

- The local church is visible.
- The universal church is currently invisible.

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1

- The local church is visible.
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2

- The local church is fallible.
- The universal church will be perfect.

1

FOR YOUR OWN
GOOD

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HEBREWS 10:24-25

²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

2

**FOR THE GOOD OF
OTHERS**

ONE HOPE

STELLENBOSCH

DAVID MATHIS

This is perhaps the most often overlooked reason for joining a church. In our proclivity to self-focus, we consider the reasons relating directly to us, but overlook how our membership relates to others.

Our belonging somewhere establishes a base from which we can reliably care for others. There are two sides to church membership, and we can't keep others accountable for their good to a covenant we ourselves haven't taken.

DAVID MATHIS

True love is not only manifest in affection and action, but also allegiance. We do not fully love our brothers and sisters in Christ if we withhold pledging our allegiance to them by covenanting with them in local-church life. Love doesn't say, "I love these people and don't need to covenant with them." Rather, it says, "I love these people enough to covenant with them."

Living the Christian life in community is more than just loose associations, but committing to each other to be there for each other when life is hard, in sickness and in sorrow.

3

**FOR THE GOOD OF
LEADERS**

ONE HOPE

STELLENBOSCH

ACTS 20:26-30

²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

4

**FOR THE GOOD OF
THE UNSAVED**

ONE HOPE

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JOHN 13:34-35

³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."



Big Idea

Being **meaningfully** part of a **committed** community is **God's idea** of what is **good for us**.



Here's an overview of how it's applied to the church in the New Testament:

100

47

60%

It's used 100 times in 94 New Testament verses. 47 of those verses give instructions to the church, and 60% of those instructions come from Paul.

UNITY

One third of the one-another commands deal with the unity of the church.



1. Be at peace with one another (Mk 9:50)
2. Don't grumble among one another (Jn 6:43)
3. Be of the same mind with one another (Ro 12:16, 15:5)
4. Accept one another (Ro 15:7)
5. Don't bite, devour, and consume one another—seriously, guys, don't eat each other (Ga 5:15)
6. Don't boastfully challenge or envy one another (Ga 5:26).
7. Gently, patiently tolerate one another (Ep 4:2)

8. Be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to one another (Ep 4:32)
9. Bear with and forgive one another (Co 3:13)
10. Seek good for one another, and don't repay evil for evil (1 Th 5:15)
11. Don't complain against one another (Jas 4:11, 5:9)
12. Confess sins to one another (Jas 5:16)

LOVE

One third of these commands instruct Christians to love one another.



13. 14. Love one another (Jn 13:34, 15:12, 17; Ro 13:8; 1 Th 3:12, 4:9; 1 Pe 1:22; 1 Jn 3:11, 4:7, 11; 2 Jn 5)
14. Through love, serve one another (Ga 5:13)
15. Tolerate one another in love (Ep 4:2)
16. Be devoted to one another in love (Ro 12:10)

HUMILITY

About 15% stress an attitude of humility and deference among believers.



17. Give preference to one another in honor (Ro 12:10)
18. Regard one another as more important than yourselves (Php 2:3)
19. Serve one another (Ga 5:13)
20. Wash one another's feet (Jn 13:14)

21. Don't be haughty; be of the same mind (Ro 12:16)
22. Be subject to one another (Ep 5:21)
23. Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another (1 Pe 5:5)

HERE'S THE REST

24. Do not judge one another, and don't put a stumbling block in a brother's way (Ro 14:13)
25. Bear one another's burdens (Ga 6:2)
26. Speak truth to one another (Ep 4:25)
27. Don't lie to one another (Co 3:9)
28. Comfort one another concerning the resurrection (1 Th 4:18)
29. Encourage and build up one another (1 Th 5:11)
30. Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (He 10:24)
31. Pray for one another (Jas 5:16)
32. Be hospitable to one another (1 Pe 4:9)
33. Teach and admonish one another with songs, hymns, and spiritual songs (Co 3:16)

Of course, Jesus and the apostles give many more instructions to the church; these “one another” passages are a good start, though.

Also: make sure you read these in context! These commands come from Jesus, Peter, John, Paul, and James, and they're scattered across the New Testament. Don't just stop at this list: dig into these passages to see what the author was talking about.