

# Belonging Not Just Believing

## I. Introduction

- A. “Transforming ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Christ.”
- B. What does it mean to be “an extraordinary follower of Christ”?
  - 1. A commitment to Christ
  - 2. A commitment to His Church
  - 3. A commitment to His Cause

## II. The Importance of Belonging to a Church

- A. I Timothy 3:15 (NAS) *But in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*
- B. Ephesians 2:19 (NLT) *So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family.*
- C. There’s a big difference between attending a church service, and belonging to a church family.

## III. How Will Belonging to a Local Church Help Me?

- A. A local church helps me focus on God.
  - 1. Matthew 22:37-38 (NLT) <sup>37</sup>“You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.”<sup>38</sup>*This is the first and greatest commandment.*”
- B. A local church helps me face life’s problems.
  - 1. Galatians 6:2 (NAS) *Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.*
- C. A local church will strengthen my faith.
  - 1. Hebrews 6:1a (NAS) *Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity.*
  - 2. Spiritual growth is not automatic!
  - 3. It teaches you to trust God, and it teaches you to put God first in your life!
  - 4. There’s a big difference between being a Christian, and being a growing Christian!
- D. A local church will help me find my ministry.
  - 1. “Ministry” is anything you do when you’re using your gifts, talents, abilities, resources, etc., to help other people.
  - 2. Ephesians 2:10 (NAS) *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*
- E. A local church helps me fulfill my life’s mission.

1. Matthew 28:18-20 (NAS) <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
2. Romans 10:13-14 (NLT) <sup>13</sup>For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." <sup>14</sup>But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?
3. Our next Newcomers' Class is April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
4. Our next Membership Class is March 19<sup>th</sup>. The one after that is May 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **IV. Conclusion**