



The Church: How?
8th in the “Church on Mission” Series
Romans 12:3-8, p. 948
August 26, 2018
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we explain how the local church is central to the life of every disciple of Jesus Christ.

The Text: Romans 12:3-8

- 1) The Bible will not let Christians separate their spiritual life and Christian walk from their local church (Romans 12:4-5).

- 2) How does a healthy Christian function as a disciple of Jesus Christ?
 - a) *They receive the gospel and understand it to be the foundation of their personal and corporate identity in Christ.*
 - b) *They receive baptism, the grace ceremony of initiation.*
 - c) *They share regularly in the Lord’s Supper, the grace ceremony of continuation.*
 - d) *They join a local church as a member, committing and submitting to be disciples of and disciple-makers for Jesus.*
 - e) *They participate in the ministry of the church (receive) and the mission of the church (serve), as the Lord assigns.*
 - f) *They see their church as their family (life) and an embassy (mission), and seek to grow in, give to, and glorify God.*

- 3) Some applications and reflections for centering your Christian life in the local church.
 - a) *When Jesus and the Holy Spirit are at the center of your life, the church is at the center of your life.*
 - b) *You should have a very balanced Christian walk that includes spiritual practices that are both personal (prayer, Bible reading) and corporate (church and corporate worship).*
 - c) *Establish some priorities that ground your Christian life in the life of the local church.*

Response

If you are a believer at Hope Church, then you are personally connected to us in Christ – live like it!

Sunday Text Questions for Romans 12:3-8

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- 1) Starter Question: How would you summarize the connection the Bible makes between a Christian and the local church?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Paul exhorts the Christian “not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think” (v. 3). How is humility important in the Christian’s relationship to God and to other Christians/the local church?
- 4) How does Paul’s command for humility set up his explanation of the diversity of gifts and roles in the church?
- 5) How might humility also be important for the Christian who ignores or rejects the importance of the local church for their Christian life?
- 6) How does v. 5 argue that our individual connection to Jesus Christ means we are also (and necessarily) individually connected to our brothers and sisters in Christ?
- 7) V. 5 ends with the important phrase, “individually members [or part] of one another.” How does being so intimately connected so as to be “part of one another” make demands upon each Christian toward other Christians?
- 8) Based upon v. 5, what would you say to a person who is a Christian but denies the importance of their local church?
- 9) Based upon this text, what are some practices that every Christian should do to reflect the fact that they are intimately connected to their siblings in Christ in their local church?
- 10) What are some things you are currently doing to reflect this connection to your siblings at Hope Church? What might be some things you need to change or increase in order to honor this connection more fully?

Further study this week: Romans 12 on the full context of our text (Mon); 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 on the interconnected Body of Christ (Tues); 1 John 3:11-24 on loving our Christian siblings (Wed); Philippians 2:1-11 on the example of Christ’s humility (Thurs); John 17 on the unity of the church (Fri).