

# WHOLE DISCIPLE

## Known in Biblical Community

(Romans 12:3-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14)

Where do you belong? Your people? Football game/Jerseys = here you get to choose your team!  
The Body of Christ on Mission (Aircraft Carrier vs. Cruise ship) = ON Mission (not spec. sport)

Whole Disciple: Marks of Maturity for Christlikeness: WHOLE/Mature/complete/perfected

-Romans 8:29 "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters;*"

-Col 1:28 We proclaim Jesus, warning every person and teaching every person with all wisdom, so that we may present every person complete [perfect] in Christ. =4 key areas:

\*\*Our heart's desire for every believer: (*Known/Connected; Growing; Serving; On Mission*)

**Main Point: As a Believer in Christ, your spiritual growth and ability to glorify God are tied to your spiritual connection to a local Body of Believers (*Biblical Community*) = can't have a spiritual connection w/o relationships & cannot have relationships w/o spiritual investment!**

1. A Whole disciple is **Known** & **Connected** within biblical community (who really knows you?)

*\*\*Living in authentic relationships within the Church Body in smaller contexts ...where???*

-**Events:** church-wide events to help you fellowship and meet other members of the Body

-**Groups:** Community Groups; Freedom Groups; Re-engage; Financial Peace; Grief share; div. Care

-**Ministries:** Family min.; Men's min.; Women's min.; Devo; Marriage min.; Chosen; Legacy;

-**Discipleship:** 1-1/1-3 **The PATH** - go to the HUB or website: Top right TAB "The PATH"

**\*What does it mean to be known biblically and be connected to Christ's Body?**

**READ Romans 12:3-5:**

"For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.<sup>4</sup> For just as we have many (members) parts in one body and all the body's parts do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another." Members of the body/of each other = "**membership**" *belong*

**\*\*Our spiritual walk with Christ is a community project** God did not design our spiritual life to be in isolation (**no hermits** in cave) -Are you really a follower of Christ if you reject His Body?

-1 Cor. 12:12-14 <sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and yet has many (members) parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For the body is not one part, but many.... **25** so that there may be no <sup>[s]</sup>division in the body, but *that* the parts may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> And if one part *of the body* suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if a part is honored, all the parts rejoice with it. <sup>27</sup> **Now you are Christ's body**, and individually (members) parts of it.

**\*\*What does it mean to be known biblically and be connected to Christ's Body?**

- A. To belong to the Lord -to be perfectly known and loved by Jesus. Union w/ Christ =ident/sec. =You are *NOW His* & you represent what He represents. You are His; You belong to Him 1 C.6:19 **Ro. 12:5** so we, who are many, are one body *in Christ*, and individually parts of one another.”  
\*Just because we attend church, does not make us Christians. Rites; rituals; cerem; religious....

To belong to a church, one must first belong to Christ =the *Head* of the Church. *Saved/converted In Christ*, you have a *New name, a new hope, a new purpose, a new identity, a new future, and a New family. A NEW place to belong; a space among God's family -the Church – His Body.*

\*Not only do we get eternal life in Christ (Heaven=where God is); BUT we get His **Spirit**...NOW  
-In the Body of Christ, we get to SEE the Spirit of Jesus at work in all of us; how we love; serve;...  
-The Church is unique among all organizations in all the world (clubs, gatherings, events, family)  
=IN the Church we get to see, experience, hear, and love Jesus by loving and experiencing Him  
-The CHURCH matters to God! The Church IS Jesus' Bride; =*How you treat her is how you honor her Groom!* (take her for granted; ignore her; mistreat her; take advantage of her; OR love/serve  
-Since believers identify with Jesus through His being their Savior and Lord, He in turn identifies with them through **His new covenant** (1 Cor. 11:25); so He authorizes the Church to covenant together with those who unite themselves to Him (His Body) in order that they *rightly bear His Image, His Name, His Message, & His MISSION to the world (seek & save lost)*

**\*\*What does it mean to be known biblically and be connected to Christ's Body?**

**A. Belong to the LORD** = we are HIS and He will never give us back or turn us over to the world....SECURE

- B. To belong to His Church: 1 Cor. 12:12 *For just as the body is one and yet has many (members) parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.*

**What IS the Church?** =Church *Universal* & the *Local* church.....=**A spiritual family of families**  
**The Church is the gathering of baptized believers for the purpose of worship and work (ministry).** The church gathers for the glory of God and edification of the Body (to please the Lord in worship); *the church does not gather to please the world or entertain the lost!*

**\*\*The church is no place for spectators, onlookers, bystanders, observers** -We welcome **Seekers** and **Worshippers** who come *for complete spiritual TRANSFORMATION (not just duty)....JOY*  
-The Church exists for **WORSHIP AND WORK**: =**Worship**: our lives exalting Jesus & being transfixed on Him and transformed by Him; finding Joy in Abiding with Him in all things!

**Work**: Leveraging our lives, our time, our money, our gifts, our talents, our experiences, and our passions to **serve** the rest of the Body in a way that edifies them (builds them up spiritually & physically). We exist to be a blessing: to the Lord and to His Body. *To love what He loves =others!*  
-**Then**, the Church scatters to engage the lost world, to see em, love em, bless em, serve em, evangelize them, then lead them to the Church. **God uses the Church to reach the world = glory!**

\*At the heart of belonging to Christ's church is the idea of **identity**. Church membership is about uniting our individual names to Christ's Name through uniting our names to His People. Because, *IN* Christ as new creation (1 Cor. 5:20), we now belong to Him (1 Cor. 6:19-20), so we are accountable to Him and by extension, *to His People* (the Church). **To identify with Jesus is to identify with His Church** – and each believer is to unite himself with the local expression of His Church which Jesus authorizes to represent His Father, Himself, and His Word *to the world*.

-As a Believer, we belong to the Church Universal; YET, *how* do we unite with the Local Church?

\***Baptism** is the symbolic means of spiritual connection to Christ and Christ's Body-the Church -1 Cor. 12:12-13 **For just as the body is one and yet has many (members) parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.** <sup>13</sup> **For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.** (phys. act to symbolize our entrance into the Church, His Body =as Christ was dead/raised ....we too were dead/now raised

Baptism is an act of obedience and is the outward sign of inward conversion. Only Regenerate members are part of Christ's true Ch. **U?**

\*\**-SO what kind of local church are we striving to become? What kind of Family are we??*

**The WELL Church VALUE #4: We will Be a healthy Family, welcoming, diverse, authentic, and forgiving, while striving to love well and help one another flourish in the gospel.**

To be **known** biblically & connected? =To belong to the **Lord**; to belong to His **Church**; & ...

C. To belong to a People: who are your people? (**NOT a clique**) God calls us to a place, and a people, for a season of meaningful **relationships** =Give/take. We are a Family of families; *Where will you be connected? Where will your family be connected?* 4000 people=how do get smaller?? Intentionality! Vulnerability! Perseverance: **Relationships**=messy/hard/draining =**Investment**

=To be **KNOWN** is to belong to a people; a group; to make relationships; to invest; accountability -What does it mean to join the Church? *A family member participates in the household* (vs. spect) **fellowship, meals, being and doing, chores/serving, helping, encouraging, loving, sacrificng**

\*To be a part of a family is to participate as a family in all the many activities of a family. =**ACTIVE** (not just showing up; not just observing; not just a fence-sitter, a sidelined-Saint, seat-critic **BUT** =Knowing God's people, pursuing God's people, loving God's people; serving God's people; encouraging God's people; **contributing** & edifying God's people. *Living out the "one-anothers"*

-Romans 12:15 **"Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.** <sup>16</sup> **Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly."**

-What is Church Membership?

**Covenant Membership defined:** Church membership is a covenant of union between a local church and a Christian (a baptized Believer) and consists of the church's affirmation of the Believer's gospel profession (of faith); then the church's promise to give spiritual leadership, &

oversight to the Christian, and then the Believer's promise to gather with that local church, actively participate in the life of the church & submit to its elders' spiritual oversight of their life.

**So what's the POINT?** ... *If* you are truly in Christ then He has ALREADY made you a part of His Body: **Vs. 5: so we, who are many, are one body in Christ**, it's not the size of family/congregation that matters. **All of us are different sizes of house churches.**

-We are Many = but, *one* Body (locally & **universally**) -1 Church family; a family of families. = **=UNITY** (bc we belong to Christ, we belong to & repres. His Body to each other & to lost world)

-Eph. 4:4-7 "*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup>But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift."*

-**Ro. 12:5** *so we, who are many, are one body in Christ and individually parts (members) of one another.*" Over 70 "one anothers" in Scripture: commands of how we treat each other in Church. To be known = to be recognized as an active, spiritual, helpful PART of *this* family

- **Romans 12:16** - "Live in harmony with one another."
- **Romans 15:5** - "Be of the same mind with one another."
- **2 Corinthians 13:11** - "Be at peace with one another."
- **1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11** - "Encourage one another."
- **Hebrews 10:24-25** - "Stir up one another to love and good works..."
- **Galatians 5:13** - "Through love serve one another."
- **1 Peter 4:10** - "Use your gifts to serve one another..."
- **Romans 12:10** - "Honor one another above yourselves."
- **Ephesians 4:2** - "With humility, patience, bearing with one another in love."
- **Ephesians 4:32** - "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another..."
- **Colossians 3:13** - "Bear with each other and forgive one another..."
- **1 Peter 5:5** - "Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another."
- **Romans 15:14** - "Instruct one another."
- **Colossians 3:16** - "Teach and admonish one another with wisdom..."
- **James 5:16** - "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another..."
- **1 Corinthians 12:25** - "Care for one another."
- **Galatians 5:15** - "Do not bite and devour one another."
- **Galatians 5:26** - "Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."
- **James 4:11** - "Do not speak evil against one another."
- **James 5:9** - "Do not grumble against one another..."
- **Colossians 3:9** - "Do not lie to one another."

The one others of scripture make **no sense unless you're part** of one another. You cannot bear with one another, forgive one another love one another **in isolation**.

It is God's design and expectation that we would be in each other's lives, rooted, and connected to their hearts, failures, and hopes. This is how God has created you to be encouraged through other brothers and sisters who are as equally broken, needy, and equally encouraging

\*THE CHURCH, *this* church is big, messy, incomplete, full of unfinished people, hypocrites, who know how broken they are and how much they need Jesus. YOU Belong here!!!

\*\*A Whole/complete disciple is **Known** & **Connected** within biblical community....Are you?

# APPLICATION

- Can you be a believer and in right standing with God and neglect His Church? His Bride?  
(Heb. 10:25)
- What will you begin to do that will help you get connected to other believers' lives at the WELL?
- What will you say NO to in order to make time to spiritually invest into other peoples' lives?
- Who is God calling you to engage spiritually? To invest into their lives spiritually?
- How will you humble yourself, serve the Lord, and make time so people can get to know you? Spend time with new people? Make new relationships? Invite people into your life/heart?
- Will we Devote ourselves to Prayer to undergird every decision in church life?
- How will I help our church be a **healthy Family, welcoming, diverse, authentic, and forgiving, while striving to love well and help one another flourish in the gospel.**
- How will I pursue **Unity** as a church family to accomplish God's purposes in our community, loving each other in a broken & hurting world.

## Community Group Discussion Questions:

- 1. What does it mean to think of yourself "with sober judgment" (Romans 12:3)?**  
How can pride or insecurity distort the way we see our role in the church?
- 2. How do spiritual gifts or personalities complement each other in the body of Christ?**  
Can you think of a time when someone's different spiritual gift helped you in a powerful way?
- 3. In what ways do we sometimes compare ourselves to others in the church?**  
How does this comparison help or hurt our unity? What is your biggest insecurity here?
- 4. Paul says "we, though many, form one body." How well do we live this out at the WELL?**  
What could we do to embody this truth more fully?
- 5. 1 Corinthians 12:13 talks about being baptized into one body by one Spirit. Have you been baptized? Do you remember it? Were you immersed or sprinkled? What is the significance of being baptized? Romans 6:4 Does the mode of baptism matter?**
- 6. Have you ever felt like you didn't "belong" in the church body?**  
What helped you stay connected, or what would have helped?
- 7. What might be keeping some members of our church body from fully participating in their role?** How can we encourage or empower those who feel sidelined?
- 8. What's one gift or role you believe God has given you for the good of the body?**  
How are you using it—or how would you like to begin?
- 9. How can we pray for and serve one another more intentionally in light of being "one body with many parts"?**
- 10. Where do you know there are current needs in the church that you/your group could step in and help out??** Childrens? Audio Visual? Security? Ushers? Coffee? Church grounds upkeep?