

A Place to Belong: Why Join a Local Church?

1. **A** _____ – The Early Church had Local Communities.
Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. – Acts 2:46-47

On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea." – Revelation 1:10-11

2. **A** _____ – Exhort One another
*As iron **sharpens** iron, so one person sharpens another. – Proverbs 27:17*

*Therefore **confess your sins** to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. – James 5:16*

3. **I** _____ – Encourage One Another
Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. – 1 Corinthians 12:12

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. – Hebrews 3:13

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, - Ephesians 5:19

- 4a. **M** _____ – Serve One Another
There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. – 1 Corinthians 12:4-11