

The Body of Christ: Everyone Has a Part

Introduction:

What Is a Local Church? (The Bones)

“There are at least two ways for us to answer the question of what a local church is: we can answer the question organically or institutionally. We can look at the flesh or the bones.”ⁱ

“...a local church is a group of Christians who regularly gather in Christ’s name to officially affirm and oversee one another’s membership in Jesus Christ and his kingdom through gospel preaching and gospel ordinances.”¹

“The gathered local church is responsible to preach the whole counsel of God through those gifted for this purpose. Through baptism it affirms credible professions. Through the Lord’s Supper it declares the Lord’s death and makes the many into one. And through excommunication it removes anyone whose life unrepentantly contradicts his or her profession.”²

The Relationships of the Local Church (Putting Flesh on the Bones)

Members (Discipling relationships)

Deacons: (1) Sharpen Biblical Focus (2) Communicate

- ***Deacon Board***
- ***Deaconess Committee***
- ***Mission Committee***
- ***What other offices do we have at RBC?***

Elders (1) Sharpen Biblical Focus (2) Communicate

What are some of the biblical metaphors used to describe the church?

Matthew 28:18–20 The Great Commission “Discipleship”

- **What is discipleship?**
- **How are disciples made?**
- **What role does the church play?**

Introduction to Member Service:

¹ Leeman, Jonathan. Church Membership (9Marks: Building Healthy Churches) . Crossway. Kindle Edition.

² Dever, Mark. Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus (9marks: Building Healthy Churches) (p. 53). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

Ephesians 4:7, 11–16 “The Body of Christ”

Small Group:

- Who is equipped for the work of service?
- What are we growing into?
- What percentage of Christ’s body is to be growing?
- What percentage of Christ’s body is to be helping others grow?
- How are we to help others grow?
- How deliberate are you in your growth into Christian maturity?
- How deliberate are you in helping your brothers/sisters grow into Christian maturity?

Let’s Consider what is Required

You Must be a *Disciple*: (Spiritual Growth)

- You must know & trust the gospel promises...
- You have to know Jesus...
- You have to know how to grow in Christlikeness...

You Must be *Discipling*: (Doing Spiritual Good to Others)

You have to spend time with other people (Evangelism & Spiritual Growth)

- You must ***help others*** know & trust the gospel promises...
- You have to ***help others*** know Jesus...
- You have to ***help others*** learn how to grow in Christlikeness...

Let’s Consider Ways You Already Do This

“You are created in God’s own image, and God is so weighty that even the impress of his image bears weight. Your life impacts the people around you, even if you’re at the bottom of the totem pole, or you don’t feel respected by the people around you.”³

(Next Week: Intro to Spiritual Growth & Discipling Relationships)

³ Dever, Mark. *Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus* (9marks: Building Healthy Churches) (p. 25). Crossway. Kindle Edition.