

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH LORTON

There is One Body (part two)

Various Scriptures

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The Grace Bible Church Elder Team has proposed revisions and additions to the Church Covenant. Last week and this week we are looking at passages in the New Testament to see the biblical basis for this proposal. But, more importantly, we will see the necessity of individual believers to be deeply committed to a local church.

We are called to be deeply committed to a local church because that is:

1. God's Design (Ephesians 4:11-16)
2. Christ's Command (Matthew 16:17-18, 18:17-18)
3. Modeled by the New Testament Church (Acts 2:41-47)

4. Good for you *and* the body (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

Questions to Consider

1. Have you read the current GBC covenant and the proposed covenant? If not, please take time to do so this week.
2. John Stott wrote, “...it is no good imagining that membership of the universal church of Christ is enough; we must belong to some local branch of it... Every Christian needs to belong to a local church and share in its worship, fellowship and witness.” Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
3. Read Matthew 16:15-19. How might you explain these verses to someone who suggests that Peter was chosen here to be the first Pope?
4. Read Matthew 18:15-18. Jesus described steps here that are sometimes referred to as church discipline. In what ways is the process actually a demonstration of our love for another? What is always the desired outcome?
5. Read Acts 2:41-47. What were some of the marks of the early church? To what were the people devoted? How would you describe the kind of community to which they were committed? In what ways are you seeking to follow this pattern?
6. List as many of the New Testament's one-another commands as you can. In what ways have you recently been living them out?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. What is it that v. 7 describes as “for the common good”?
8. Read Matthew 22:37-40. What are the two great commandments, and how does deepening your commitment to a local church help you fulfill them?

For further reading: *31 Ways to be A One-Another Christian* (2019) by Stuart Scott and S. Andrew Jin, and *Caring for One Another* (2018) by Edward Welch