

ARE YOU ALL IN?
Hebrews 10:19-25

INTRODUCTION: Financial advisers will tell you the wisest way to invest money is to be diversified. Yet the Bible tells us that God's ways are not man's ways: Isaiah 55:8-9. God's strategy for investing our lives is not diversification but concentration: we are told to give all our life completely to Jesus Christ: Luke 9:23. Our bodies are wonderfully created by our God: Psalm 139:14-16. God's body, the church is also a wonderful creation of God: Romans 12:4-5. The church is not a building; it is a body. Even in the early church there was the problem of not all the organs being "all in" the body and the body was suffering for it.

I. WHY SHOULD I BE A MEMBER OF A LOCAL CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST?

The word "church" as it is used most times in the New Testament talks about a local, visible, single, congregation that meets in a certain location. The New Testament always assumes membership in a local church: Ephesians 2:19-22. Every believer ought to be "all in" a local church somewhere: Hebrews 10:24-25. There are some great benefits of being "all in" to a local church including stimulating each other to loving others and doing for others and we encourage others just by showing up.

II. WHAT SHOULD I BECOME AS A MEMBER OF A LOCAL CHURCH?

Watch the order of events that took place as the New Testament church began: Acts 2:41-47: 1. They believed. 2. They were baptized. 3. They joined the church family. 4. They committed to regular worship. The difference of being a church attender and a church member is commitment. Attenders are spectators. Members are participants. The Christian life is more than just commitment to Christ; it is a commitment to other members of the body of Christ. Hebrews 10:24-25: one ministry each of us can commit to each time we come together is the ministry of encouragement.

III. WHERE SHOULD I BELONG AS A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL CHURCH?

Sadly, many people give more attention to where they will shop or go out to eat than they do with choosing where to worship the Lord. There are four things you should be very careful about when deciding which local body of Christ to join in. 1. Find a local church where the Word of God is preached every week! 2 Timothy 4:1-4; John 17:17. 2. Worship: Find a church where the worship is uplifting, inspiring and centered on Jesus Christ and directed to the praise of God. Psalm 96:8-9. 3. Witness! Find a church that believes people without Jesus Christ are spiritually lost and in need of salvation! Romans 1:16-17. 4. Work! Find a church where you can get involved putting your spiritual gifts to work in the service of the body! Ephesians 2:8-10. Our God wants each of His children to be "all in" to His church. If our Lord Jesus loved His church enough to die for it should we not love the church enough to give our lives to it and be "all in" to our local church?