

Support Your Local Church

INTRODUCTION

Ref scriptures: Eph 4:4, Col 1:18

The title for our lesson was adopted from a movie made in 1969 starring James Garner entitled ("**Support Your Local Sheriff!**") ...

- A. In most congregations, there are varying degrees of commitment among the members as follows...
 1. **The faithful few**
 2. **The fairly faithful**
 3. **The C&E group -**
 4. Then there is **the FPO**
- B. Membership in the body of Christ has many blessings...
 1. A relationship with Jesus Christ and all which that entails Ep 1:3
 2. But there are also responsibilities incumbent upon the members - e.g., Ep 4:25

I. MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

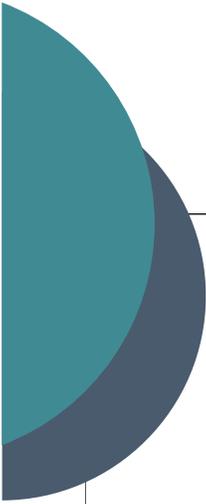
A. THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL... (Cliffs Notes version)

1. The very first thing to understand that there is that according to the Bible there is only one Church as shown by Eph 4:4, Col 1:18
2. Additionally, that one body is also the Church of which Jesus spoke of in Mt 16:18

Note: The use of the term "**it**" in the passage which denotes singular or only one of something.

3. That one body, the Church is made up of all the saved as noted in Acts 2:47
4. A person is added by the Lord to that one Church when they are saved - cf. Acts 2:41,47
5. The final point that is that Christ is the savior of only that one body the Church as stated in Eph 5:23

Over



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6. Summary

- a. In summary there is only one church as noted in Eph 4:4
- b. Christ is the savior of that one church Eph 5:23
- c. One of its names is Churches of Christ Rms 16:1
- d. You can tell if you are in the right Church by the doctrine that is being taught. Rm 6:17

B. THE LOCAL CHURCH...

1. There are many examples of New Testament Christians who lived in a particular location who function together as a congregation.
 - a. Two examples are as follows:
 - I. 1 Corinthians 1:2,
 - II. Colossians 4:16
2. One joins a local church when they seek to work with other Christians - cf. Acts 9:26 28

C. IS LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP NECESSARY...?

1. Can one just have a "floating membership" without joining a particular congregation?
2. The answer to that is that the mere provision of local churches in God's Word implies...
 - a. A divine purpose for the local church
 - b. And a corresponding responsibility of Christians to join themselves to it