



# Support Your Local Church

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## 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

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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