

Discussion Questions

Why is it so hard for some people to say, “I believe in the church?” If you’ve had personal experiences with Christians or churches that have disillusioned you, feel free to share them.

Christ’s vision for his church is captured in the three words of the Creed: “one,” “holy,” and “communion.” In other words, we are to be a united righteous community. The truth is, when it comes to this vision, we can tell plenty of stories of exemplary Christians and embarrassing Christians. Why do you think that is so and what should be done about it?

In Chapter 15, Tom wrote about a man once who was active in a church until he saw behavior in the leadership that disillusioned him. The man simply left the church. Tom wrote, “It never occurred to him that he was expected to work with others to find a remedy for the situation. For him, the church was merely an institution under someone else’s responsibility, not his. He drew benefit from it until the institution no longer pleased him. The man did not understand that Christ expects his followers to actually pursue Christ’s vision for a church that is *one*, *holy*, and a *communion*.” What would you say to this man? What could he have done differently at that church?

Have someone read Ephesians 5:25-27 to the group. What earthly relationship does Paul use to compare Christ’s relationship to his church? Though Christ “gave himself up” for the church (NIV), many people who say they believe in Christ have no meaningful involvement in a specific church. Can you love Christ and yet have no love for what he loves? Just as Christ’s love led to sacrifice, what might we have to “give up” out of love for the church?

Although Christ’s followers “believe in the church,” is it ever right to leave a specific church?

Discuss what you think a person should look for when choosing a church.

This Week’s Assignment

Read Chapters 17-19 in *The Anchor Course*

The Anchor Course



“I Believe in
the Church”

*“I believe in the one holy church,
the communion of saints”*

Ephesians 5:25 (NIV)

“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”

The body you belong to is *one*, so make sure to nurture _____ among other believers.

*“I believe in the one holy church,
the communion of saints”*

1 Corinthians 1:2,

“To the church of God in Corinth
together with all those everywhere
who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The body you belong to is *holy*, so make sure to promote the _____ of other believers.

*“I believe in the one holy church,
the communion of saints”*

Ephesians 5:25-27 (NLT)

“He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God’s word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.”

The body you belong to is a *communion*, so make sure to improve the _____ between other believers.

*“I believe in the one holy church,
the communion of saints”*

What’s the purpose of a Christian community?

First, it’s for _____.

Acts 2:42, “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the *fellowship*, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Second, it’s for _____.

Philippians 1:4-5, “In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your *partnership* in the gospel.”
