

I ♥ MY CHURCH

I want you to think of a blessing you have experienced through the church. Some way that God has strengthened you, encouraged you or guided you through his church.

I believe we could all share a specific example of how we have been blessed by the body of Christ. That's what we are going to dive into today, talking about the blessing of the body.

Text: **Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16**

I. What is the body of Christ?

A. The universal body (Church) of Christ.

*“Christ is the head of the church not you or I.
– Vs. **Colossians 1:15-20***

“to be first, to hold first place.” The origin of this word carries the idea of “first in time, first in rank, first in honor, influence, to be chief.”

B. The local body (church) of Christ.

“The New Testament does not model a Christian life apart from the local church, but it is assumed as normal for the believers to instinctively desire to gather for worship with other believers!”

II. What are some other blessings of being in the body?

A. While the church exists for his glory, we are blessed by:

- 1) Growing in the Word.
- 2) Serving one another.
- 3) Praying with and for one another.
- 4) Worshipping together.

B. Are we looking for ways to be a blessing in the body?

*“We are a community on mission! We are called to “provoke one another to love and good works.” (**Hebrews 10:24**)*

“You have a role to play! Yes, you, as a follower of Christ, God has a design for you in his church!”

“God has planted this church in this community, at this time, for his purpose. He also planted you and I in this church for his purposes. You might not feel like you are able to plug in, but that fear is not of the Lord but of the enemy.”

Application:

Through Christ we are “baptized” or “submerged” into the body of Christ! **Acts 2:47; 5:14** and **Romans 6:1-5** speak to this idea of being planted together as the church.

We are blessed to be planted in a church, by grace, for our growth into Christ likeness and his glory to be revealed in the world! I love my church!