

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE CHRISTIAN AND CHURCH

Romans 12:4-8

Be Transformed—Week 4

ICEBREAKER: If you died today, who would give your eulogy, and what would they say?

OVERVIEW: Bill Hybels famously said that the local church is the hope of the world. Yet in the U.S. only three out of ten Christians attend church weekly. If the church is so important, why are so few Christians committed and actively involved in it? In this discussion we will go deeper with Sunday's message and discover how God wants Christians to relate to the church.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What is your first memory of church?
3. What is your favorite thing about church?
4. Why do so few Christians prioritize the church?
5. Acts 2:41-47 gives us a description of the first church. Read this passage and answer the following questions.
 - a. Verse 42 says that they were devoted. Look up the definition of "devoted" or "devotion" and jot it down.
 - b. What were they devoted to? (See vs. 42 and 46.)

- c. Verse 44 says that they held all things in common. Were the early Christians supporters of Communism? Explain.
 - d. What can our church do to become more like the first church?
6. For the following questions refer to Sunday's sermon. Read Romans 12:4-8. In this passage the church is called the body of Christ. What does the Bible teach about the body of Christ?
7. Romans 12:5 says that we are members of one another. The sermon described three types of church membership; what are they? Why is it important to be a practical church member? Why is it important to be a formal church member?
8. Romans 12:6 says every Christians has a spiritual gift. What are spiritual gifts?
9. The passage gives four insights about spiritual gifts. What are they?
9. Have you found a way to use your gifts to meaningfully contribute to the church? Explain.

The Last Word: Spiritual gifts are not for our enjoyment, but for our employment.

