

the local
church
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is a
body

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27

**Member = Something that is vitally
attached to a body for a reason.**

foot, hand, ear, eye (vss. 15-17)

NOT: shoe, glove, ear muff, eyeglass

***Deep, abiding attachment of
membership in the body!***



**Regarding your relationship
with this local church:**

#1 – You are unique in this body.

Only one you, only one like you.

Paul's message: That is wonderful!

The way God designed the church to be.



**Regarding your relationship
with this local church:**

#2 – You are important to this body.

Vss. 15-21 – All are important.

***Rom. 12:4-13 – Which gift does
the church not need?***

***1 Cor. 13:4-7 – Characteristics of
love are all important to the
local church's well-being.***

***Eph. 4:11-16 – Local church is built
up only as each part does its share.***



**Regarding your relationship
with this local church:**

**#3 – You need to embrace and
celebrate your importance.**

Heb. 10:24-25 – Worship is important!

***1 Cor. 12:12-27 – So much more to
being a well-functioning part
of local church.***

***Be careful not to judge faithfulness
by simply looking at attendance
figures.***



**Regarding your relationship
with this local church:**

**#3 – You need to embrace and
celebrate your importance.**

***Rom. 12:6-8 – Look, with enthusiasm,
for opportunities outside these
four walls to do your part
in building up the church.***



Two final questions:

What about “placing membership?”

*While phrase is not found in NT,
principle of being a member, as opposed to
superficial observer or participant ,
is set forth in 1 Cor. 12.*

*1 Cor. 14:23-25 – Clear distinction
between the church with its
members and those who observe
or casually participate.*

*That distinction is accomplished
when one places membership.*



Two final questions:

What about “church hopping?”

Hopping = from church to church, never seeing oneself as deeply attached to any church.

Sometimes changing local churches is necessary or highly advantageous.

Change ought to always bring great pain, like a foot being cut off.

