



The Family of God

Ephesians 2:11-22; 4:1-16;
Hebrews 10:19-25; Acts 2:42

One Thing: God's will is for you to be a **member** of His church.

One of God's greatest gifts is community. Even if you take the spirituality out of it, everyone appreciates having people around them to encourage and push them forward. It's nice to have a hand to hold when journeying through this thing called "life." In the Christian faith, we call this the family of God – the church. What is the church all about, and why do we need it?

Introduction

God expects me to be a member of a church family.

Ephesians 2:19 (LB): "You are a **member** of God's very own family ... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."

We need each other to be strong in our Christian faith.

Universal church – Only 4 Times in the Bible

Local church – 77 Times in the Bible

A Christian without a church family is an **orphan**.

The Bible says, "You **belong** in God's household ..."

What's the difference between being a Christian and being a member of a church family: Commitment

I become a **Christian** by committing my life to Christ.

I become a **member** of a church by committing myself to other Christians.

Together, we celebrate God's presence.

Worship is expressing my love to God.

Matthew 4:10 says, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."

John 4:23: "True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."

Together, we **communicate** God's Word.

The evangelism is "sharing the good news of Jesus."

Ephesians 3:10: "His (God's) intent was that now, **through the church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known."



**650 People for Jesus
By the end of 2022**

Romans 10:13-14 (Living Bible): "Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved, but who can ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him and how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him and how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them."

- Pastor, I want to learn how to share my faith. Sign me up for the online Evangelism class.

Together, we **educate** God's people.

The definition of that is discipleship.

Discipleship means helping believers grow spiritually.

Hebrews 6:1: "Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity."

2 Peter 3:18: "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 4:11-13: "It was He [God] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be **built up** until we all reach **unity** in the faith and in the **knowledge** of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the **whole measure** of the **fullness** of Christ."

- Pastor, I want to grow in my faith. Sign me up for the Spiritual Formation and Discipleship Conference on March 13 and 14.

Together, we incorporate God's people into His family.

Fellowship is where you find community.

The heartbeat of South Bay is our Community Groups.

Hebrews 10:24-25: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

- Pastor, I want to be part of a Community Group. Sign me up for a group.

Together, we **demonstrate** God's love.

A ministry is meeting needs with love.

John 13:35: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you **love** one another."

1 Corinthians 12:4-5,27: "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ...Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a [separate and necessary] part of it."

The church needs **every single one of you and each one of you is vital and necessary.**

Every job is important.

And every one of you, every member, is a "10" in some area.

- Pastor, I want to serve and love. Sign me up for Discovering Ministry.

Why Membership?

The difference between being an attender and being a member can be summed up in one-word commitment.

At South Bay, we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership in our church for four reasons.

1. A Biblical Reason.

Ephesians 5:25: “Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her.”

2. A Cultural Reason.

It is an antidote to our society.

3. A Practical Reason.

It defines who can be counted on.

4. A Personal Reason.

Membership produces spiritual growth.

- Pastor, I want to be a member of South Bay. Sign me up for Orientation on Sunday, November 17, at 12:15 p.m.

Next Steps

- Memorize Ephesians 2:19.
- Pastor, I want to be a member of South Bay. Sign me up for Orientation on Sunday, November 17, at 12:15 p.m.
- Pastor, I want to grow in my faith. Sign me up for the Spiritual Formation and Discipleship Conference on March 13 and 14.
- Pastor, I want to be part of a Community Group. Sign me up for a group.
- Pastor, I want to serve and love. Sign me up for Discovering Ministry.
- Pastor, I want to learn how to share my faith. Sign me up for the online Evangelism class.

Next Week - #Adulting: The Word and The Way

What do you think when you hear the word Bible?

Unfortunately, it can give haunting thoughts to some. For

those who know and love God, the Bible is the primary way

in which we learn more about who He is and how we should live. The Bible is both historical and theological. The question is this: What use is the Bible to us now?

