



# “Putting Your (Church) Family First”

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- A lesson on loyalty to the local church where you are a member.



## A William Bennett quote on loyalty:

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- “Our loyalties are important signs of the kinds of persons we have chosen to become. They mark a kind of constancy or steadfastness in our attachments to those other persons, groups, institutions, or ideals with which we have deliberately decided to associate ourselves.” (The Book of Virtues)



## Consider our many attachments in our hurried, demanding lives:

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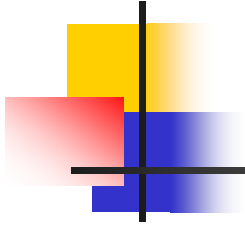
- You may have a family depending on you..
- You more than likely have a job, which requires much time and attention.
- You might be a member of a club or organization devoted to a cause.
- Maybe you play on a team, or coach one.
- You may be a member of a church.



“...We deliberately decide to associate ourselves...”

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- An engineer decides where he'll work.
- A baseball player commits to a team.
- An individual decides to identify himself/herself with a particular church.
  - Acts 9:26 “When he (Paul) came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples...”
  - Acts 2:42



“The local church is the largest authorized organization on earth designed to carry out God’s work.”



# Consequences of NOT becoming a member of a local church:

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- Would you be missed if you forsake the assembling of the saints? (Hebrews 10:25)
- How would you comply with laying by in store on the first day of the week? (I Cor 16:1-2)
- How would you ever attain the desired scriptural organization of elders, deacons, and saints? (Philippians 1:1)



## Ephesians 4:16

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- “From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the whole body for the building up of itself in love.”



## Elijah Heath's sermon, "What if everyone else at church..."

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- Came back Sunday night just like I do?
- Gave as they prospered just like I give?
- Volunteered to teach just like I do?
- Was as dedicated to the building up of this church as I am?
- Isn't this what Paul means by "the proper working of each individual part?"

