

I Am a Church Member

Week 1: Functioning & Unifying

Matthew 4:18–19 | Matthew 28:19–20 | 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 | Ephesians 4:11–16 | John 17:21

Key Thoughts

- Two churches, one faith:** The “Big C” Church is the collection of every true, Bible-believing Christian worldwide. The “little c” church is simply a local gathering. Membership in the Big C requires faith in the eternal, risen Christ—the “I AM” of Exodus 3:14 and John 8:58.
- Functioning means fishing:** A functioning church member is a fisher of men (Matt. 4:19). There is no retirement in the kingdom of God—every believer who sits on the gift of grace is choosing not to function.
- The Great Commission belongs to every believer:** “As you are going” (Matt. 28:19–20) is not reserved for the original twelve or church leaders. Jesus built a self-replicating command: teach people to obey everything I commanded—including this command.
- Unity is not sameness:** Unity isn’t built on shared preferences, age groups, or worship styles. It’s built on the same Spirit, the same Lord, and the same mission (1 Cor. 12:4–7). Our diversity is by design.
- Functional + unified = the church at its best:** Functional but not unified, we burn out. Unified but not functional, we stagnate. When both come together, the world sees the beauty of Christ through His church (Eph. 4:15–16).

Discussion Questions

- What is the difference between the “Big C” Church and the “little c” church? Why does understanding this distinction matter for how we view membership and community?

- Read Matthew 4:18–19. The disciples left their nets immediately. What holds us back from being “fishers of men,” and what would it look like to respond with that same urgency?

- In Matthew 28:19–20, Jesus says to teach people to “observe” (obey) His commands—not just learn information. Where in your life is there a gap between knowing and actually obeying?

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–7. Paul says the Spirit gives gifts “for the profit of all.” How do we tend to elevate certain gifts over others in the church, and what damage does that cause?

5. Pastor Chris said: “When we’re functional but not unified, we burn out. When we’re unified but not functional, we stagnate.” Which side does your church experience lean toward, and why?

6. Personal: Using the personal checkup from the sermon—are you functional or parked? What is one concrete step you will take this week to function and unify within the body?

Applications

1. **Do a personal checkup:** Ask honestly—am I functional or parked? Am I adding to Christ’s mission, or am I sitting on the gift of God’s grace? Write down your honest answer and bring it before the Lord this week.
2. **Step into the Great Commission:** Identify one person this week you can share the gospel with, invite to church, or simply serve in Jesus’ name. Don’t schedule it for “someday”—do it as you are going.
3. **Choose unity over preference:** Where you feel the pull toward criticism or division—over music style, age group, or opinion—stop, pray, and choose to link arms with your brothers and sisters for the mission. Join a Life Group if you’re not already in one.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for making us part of Your church—the body of Christ purchased by the blood of Your Son. Forgive us for sitting parked when You designed us to function. Forgive us for dividing over preferences when You call us to unite around Your mission. Holy Spirit, tune us, repair us, and unite us so that together we make beautiful music for our King. Give us the courage to be fishers of men wherever You send us. May the world see the beauty of Christ through a church that is both functional and unified. We want to be used, Lord—for Your glory and for the sake of the lost. In Jesus’ name, amen.