

## **Your Place in the Body: Why Showing Up is a Spiritual Act**

### **Introduction: The Missing Piece**

Have you ever tried to put together a complicated piece of furniture, like a bookshelf, and gotten to the very end only to find you have one screw left? You look at the instructions, you look at the bookshelf... it seems fine. It's standing up. It looks okay. But you know. You know that screw was meant for something. It had a purpose. And without it, you're never quite sure if it's truly secure. If it can handle the weight it was designed to hold.

What if I told you that the local church is a lot like that? And that many of us here today are that crucial, missing piece? Not because we're lazy, but because we haven't yet discovered where we fit. Today isn't just about "volunteering." It's about finally clicking into place.

God designed you for a purpose that only you can fulfill in this family. And until you find your place, the whole body feels the loss.

### **1. From Spectator to Conqueror: Your Place is a Position of Power**

We love **Romans 8:37: "We are more than conquerors!"** We claim that victory over sin, over death, over anxiety. But conquest isn't a spectator sport. You can't conquer from the couch.

#### ***Romans 8:31-37 (ESV)***

##### **Look at the stories:**

- David: Didn't defeat Goliath in the king's court. He did it on the battlefield, sling in hand, in the place God called him to. (*1 Samuel 17*)
- Joshua: The walls of Jericho didn't fall because everyone had a good feeling about God's power. They fell when people took their assigned positions and marched. (*Joshua 6*)

Here's the truth: Your God-given victory isn't just a status to enjoy; it's a power to be deployed. That feeling of spiritual restlessness some of you have? It might not be a lack of faith. It might be a call to action. God isn't just for you; He wants to work through you. Your place of service is your position on the battlefield where Christ's victory becomes visible.

But this isn't a solo mission. God designed us to conquer together.

### **2. We're a Body, Not a Bunch of Appendages**

The Apostle Paul didn't say the church is like a body. He said it is the body of Christ. That's our identity. This isn't a minor metaphor; it's a biological reality.

#### ***1 Corinthians 12:12-27 ESV***

Let's get graphic for a second. What happens in your physical body when one part checks out?

- Your kidney decides it's tired and just quits? That's a life-threatening crisis.
- Your thumb says, "You know what? I'm not a fancy finger like the index. I'm taking a sabbatical." Try opening a jar. Try typing a text. Suddenly, the humble thumb is desperately missed.

That's the church! When the greeter isn't at the door, the "body" feels less welcoming. When the person who makes the coffee stays home, the "body" misses a moment of connection and warmth. When the tech team member burns out, the "body" can't see or hear the message clearly.

This is why disconnection is so painful. It's not an organizational problem; it's a spiritual illness. When you're not in your place, the body isn't functioning as it was designed to. We feel it. We limp along. But when every part does its work—from the seen to the unseen—the body is healthy, strong, and irresistible.

And this isn't just busywork. The work we do in our rightful place echoes into eternity.

### 3. The Best Investment You'll Ever Make

In a world that tells us to invest in stocks, real estate, and retirement funds, Jesus gives us a radically different portfolio strategy: **"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." (Matthew 6:20).**

What is a "treasure in heaven"? It's not heavenly gold coins. It's the eternal impact of a life invested in God's kingdom.

- It's the smile on a child's face who finally understands Jesus loves them because you served in Children's Ministry.
- It's the comfort a grieving family feels because you were on the Hospitality Team and brought them a meal.
- It's the newcomer who felt seen because you, a greeter, remembered their name.
- It's the worship service that drew someone to Christ because the tech team faithfully projected the lyrics and managed the sound.

The world invests in things that rust, break, and become obsolete. But when you serve—when you take your place in the body—you are investing in people. And people are eternal. The returns on that investment last forever.

**1 Corinthians 3:12-15 (ESV)**

**Matthew 6:19-21 ESV**

**Colossians 3:23-24 (ESV)**

**1 Corinthians 3:12-15 (NLT)**

### Call to Action: Your First Step

This isn't about guilt. It's about design. God has hard-wired you with passions and spiritual gifts to make a unique contribution. Maybe you know yours. Maybe you have no idea. That's okay. Today is about discovery. We're not asking for a lifetime commitment. We're asking for a first step.

### Here's your mission, should you choose to accept it:

1. PRAY this week: "God, where do you want me? Show me my place." Ask Him to open your eyes to a need you can meet.
2. PLAY: That's right. Experiment. For the next three months, try one thing. Just one. Serve on the hospitality team. Help with set-up. Join the parking lot crew. See how it feels to be a connected part of the body.
3. BRING A FRIEND: This isn't a solo journey. Text someone right now and say, "Hey, I'm thinking of trying out a serving team for a few months. Want to do it with me?" It's always more fun together.

### Today, after the service:

- Scan the QR code on the screen to see a list of immediate needs.
- Walk over to the "Connection Tables." They're not sign-up sheets; they are conversation starters. Talk to our team leaders. Ask questions.
- Find your place. Because this body isn't complete without you.