

BELONGING TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD

FOREWORD

There is a lovely passage in Psalm 68:5-6, which describes the loving care God takes of his children. He is described as, *“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. **God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land**”*. Note especially that phrase, *“God sets the lonely in families”*. When someone becomes a follower of Jesus, God sets them in his family. From that moment on they belong to the people of God. The apostle Paul describes Jesus’ followers in Galatians 6:10 as, *“those who belong to the family of believers”*. The name the Bible uses to describe this family of believers is ‘the church’.

Belonging to such a family is a great privilege and also a great responsibility. The joys and duties of belonging to God’s people make up the theme of this study booklet.

To gain the most from these pages you will need to do two things:

1. Read them with your Bible beside you so that you can follow all the references.
2. Pray that the Lord will help you both to understand the teaching of the Bible about the church, and then to put it into practice in your own life.

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Introduction

The importance of the people of God, the church, for Christian believers can be seen by the many references to it in the Bible. The church is mentioned over 100 times in the New Testament alone, and its equivalent word, translated ‘community’ or ‘congregation’, over 70 times in the Old Testament. So, clearly, the church is very important to God and, therefore, something all true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ are to consider as important. So with that in mind we turn to examine what God has said about the church in the Bible. Because of some confusion about the way the word ‘church’ is used, we need first of all to examine some of the wrong ways people speak of the church. This is so that we will not make the same mistake when we come to study the way that God speaks of the church in the Bible.

Chapter 1 What the Church is not

Many people use the term ‘church’ differently from the way in which God uses it in the Bible. It is most important for us that we understand the way God himself uses this term ‘church’, and that we use it in the same way. Here are three of these wrong uses.

- i. It is used loosely to describe worldwide religion or an international organisation. The Bible never uses the term ‘church’ in that way.

- ii. It is used to describe those who are ministers and leaders. Sometimes when a person becomes a Christian minister people say, “He’s gone into the ‘church’.” Again, this is not how it is used in the Bible.
- iii. It is used to describe the building where Christian believers meet to worship God. This also is quite different from the way the church is described in the Bible.

Though we may often use the term ‘church’ in that way, we must always remember that the Bible NEVER uses it like any of these. Really, these are incorrect uses of the ‘church’, so that leads us into looking at how the Bible does use it.

Chapter 2 What the Church is

The Bible only ever uses the term ‘church’ to describe **the people of God**, those who are true followers of Jesus and who enjoy his salvation.

The word ‘church’ used in the Bible literally means ‘called out ones’. It describes Christian believers as those whom God has ‘called out’ from sin and the world, and called into the kingdom of Christ and the fellowship of the people of God.

That the ‘church’ refers to the people of God is seen supremely in Ephesians 5:25: *“Husbands, love your wives,*

*just as Christ loved **the church** and gave himself for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”* It is clear that when Jesus died on the cross he did not shed his blood for buildings of wood, leaves, or bricks and mortar but for people. So the church consists of those for whom Christ died, those who trust in him for forgiveness, whose sins have been washed in his blood. **The Bible uses the term ‘church’ to describe the people of God, those who come together to worship him, and not in any other way.**

With this in mind there are two ways the Bible describes the people of God when it uses the term ‘church’:-

a. The total number of all true believers

That is, all believers in every age, the past, the present and the future — all believers throughout the whole of history. Every Christian believer belongs to this great company of people. This is very encouraging, especially if you are the only follower of Jesus in your village or town. You belong to this great company of God’s people, the church. This is sometimes called the ‘universal church’. Here are some Bible verses that speak of God’s people in this way:

Jesus said (Matthew 16:18), *“... I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”* In addition to speaking about the ‘universal church’ this is a very encouraging verse in another way. It assures us the work

of the gospel in the world will be successful and flourish. Nothing and no one is able to stop the Lord Jesus building his church.

Colossians 1:18: *“And he (i.e. Jesus) is the head of the body, the church.”* Ephesians 1:22-23: *“And God placed all things under his feet (i.e. Jesus) and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”* These two passages also help us to see the closeness that exists between the Lord Jesus Christ and his people, as close as the head is to the body. It also reminds us of his deep interest in the lives of all his followers and his care of them.

b. The local gathering of true believers

That is, those who meet together to worship the Lord and to learn from his word, the Bible. In fact, this is the way the Bible uses ‘church’ on most occasions. The local church is the expression of the universal church in any one place. Here are a few examples:-

1 Corinthians 1:2: *“To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy...”*

Galatians 1:1-2: *“Paul, an apostle - sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead - and all the brothers with me, **to the churches in Galatia...**”* This area is part of what we know as modern Turkey. There were lots of different gatherings of the people of God. These were local

churches in the different towns and villages. 1 Thessalonians 1:1: *“Paul, Silas and Timothy, to **the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...**”*

Indeed, most of Paul’s letters in the New Testament were written to local churches, local gatherings of the people of God. Sometimes he calls them churches, as in the examples above. Other times he describes them in different terms, but he is still addressing local churches, and always referring to true Christian believers. (See Romans 1:7, Philippians 1:1, Colossians 1:2 etc.)

The Bible always assumes that every Christian believer will belong to a local church — it never talks of Christians not belonging to a church. And we are, therefore, drawn to the conclusion that if followers of Jesus do not commit themselves to a local group of true believers, they are being disobedient to the teaching of the Bible. The only exception is when there are no other believers with whom to meet. When this is the case, the individual believer should pray and tell others about Jesus so that they will follow him too. Then a local church can be established.

In John 10:27 Jesus says, *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”* True followers of Jesus will want to obey him. Part of that obedience is to take an active part in God's community, his people, the church. Unwillingness to be committed to a local congregation means disobedience to Christ. This in turn will mean

missing out on the blessings that come from belonging to a local company of God's people. We shall return to this later on.

Chapter 3 How we become members of a local Church

If every true disciple of Jesus belongs to the universal church, the question arises, "How does someone become a member of a local church?" To help us we have a lovely and clear example of this in Acts 2. This chapter describes how the very first local church came into existence in Jerusalem.

It was the Day of Pentecost and Peter preached the gospel very effectively. A large crowd listened to him. Then, when he had finished preaching about the Lord Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection, many in the crowd were very anxious. We read in Acts 2:37-39: "*When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off —for all whom the Lord our God will call.'*" It is important to see what then followed. The response of these people is very simple yet very instructive. Acts 2:41-42: "*Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*"

Now notice the order of things here:-

i. They accepted Peter's message

They turned from their sin in repentance, and they called on the Lord Jesus Christ to save them from their sins. They became Christian believers.

ii. They were baptised

They declared publicly and in obedience to Christ that they had become Christians, that they had finished with their old sinful ways, which were buried and gone, and now they were going to live as Jesus wanted them to live. This indicated their submission to Christ who commands his followers to be baptised (Matthew 28:19-20). They were publicly declaring that God had worked in their hearts by the Holy Spirit, their union with Christ and commitment to serve him and his people.

iii. Then they devoted themselves (Acts 2:42)

Once they had become followers of Jesus, these things in this verse and outlined below, became their life-long activity. They devoted themselves to the Lord and to one another in local church life. The details of this life together are the subject of our next chapter.

Chapter 4 The activities of the first local Church at Jerusalem (Acts 2:42)

These new believers in Jesus at Jerusalem shared in the joys of the redeemed community, the church, by being devoted to the following.

a. The apostles' teaching

This teaching, or doctrine as it is sometimes called, was essential to their spiritual life together. They realised the need to believe only those things that God has revealed. We have this teaching in the Bible; therefore, it is very important for us to study the Bible together in our churches. This teaching is the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20).

b. The fellowship

They committed themselves to one another, to care for one another, love one another, and encourage one another spiritually. Someone has described this 'fellowship' as 'sharing the common life'. In other words, these Christian believers shared with one another all that God had done for them and given to them.

This included sharing things such as encouragements, gifts and abilities, and even resources, using them for the benefit of the other members of the church. It also meant that problems and difficulties were shared with the other church members for prayer and help. This would include such things as not understanding parts of the Bible, or being unwell, or being discouraged, and even needing food. Church members are not to be critical and complaining about other Christians, but rather be looking for opportunities to express their love for Christ by caring for his people.

Christian believers today are to do the same things, and to share in this fellowship with the people of God.

c. The breaking of bread

This means they remembered the death of Jesus as he had told them. The broken bread symbolises his broken body on the cross (see Luke 22:19ff), and is often called the Lord's Supper. This reminded them of all that Christ had done for them by his death on the cross. The Lord, of course, had done the same for the others in the church and, therefore, this served as a reminder that they were part of the redeemed community. They were those whom Christ had loved, and they loved him in return. And part of loving Christ meant loving his people.

As well as being devoted to the apostles' teaching, and the fellowship, Christian believers today are to remember regularly the death of Jesus in the breaking of bread in their local church life together.

d. Prayer

They sought God together, praying for one another and with one another, and praying for the salvation of the lost. A lovely example of this is found in Acts 4 when Peter and John had been in prison for telling others about Jesus. When they were released they returned to the rest of the church to tell them all that had happened and how the chief priest and elders wanted them to stop telling others about the Lord. Then it is recorded that they prayed together for God's help to carry on courageously telling others about

Jesus (Acts 4:24-30). The result of their prayer time together is described in Acts 4:31: *“After they had prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”*

This is a lovely picture of what a local church is all about. It is the people of God committing themselves to serve God together, and committing themselves to one another in the love of Christ. The true church of Christ is not made up of unbelievers; it is only for those who truly follow Jesus.

Chapter 5 The great benefits of belonging to a local Church

The church is described like this in Galatians 6:10: *“... the family of believers.”* We also read in Psalm 68:6: *“God sets the lonely in families...”* God takes sinners who are hostile, disobedient, rebellious, filled with malice and anger, destroying one another and being destroyed, and he makes them part of his family! What an astonishing thing that God should do that for sinners like you and me, but he does it because he is the God of all grace. He then becomes our Father in heaven (Galatians 4:6), Christ becomes our elder brother (Hebrews 2:11), and our fellow Christians become our brothers and sisters. And this is expressed visibly and practically as we belong to a local congregation, a local church.

What a delightful description that is! In a family all the members belong to one another. In a family all receive the

love and care of the other members, and give the same in return. In a family all have the same parents, and all who belong were born into it. Now, in the family of believers it is like this. All the believers belong to one another. All are to receive the love and care of the other believers, and to be loving and caring themselves. All have God as their heavenly Father and became family members by being born again, (not reincarnation, but being born from above, being given a new heart by God that loves, trusts and serves him — John 3).

In his great wisdom God has instructed us not to try and live for him all on our own, but rather to live for him together with other believers. It is a great comfort to be able to share with other followers of Jesus and to know they care for you and will pray with you and help you. To be able to share each other's problems; to help each other understand the Bible better and to obey it; and to serve God together is a great blessing and encouragement.

Chapter 6 Christian believers who refuse to meet with other believers

Realising the great privileges church members share, you would think that no Christian believer would ever want to miss any of the meetings of the church. But even in the days of the New Testament there were some who were doing this.

To correct this we have the instruction in Hebrews 10:19-25. Notice the use of the plural ‘us’ throughout these

verses, for this is something that all Jesus' followers are to do together. The passage begins with a reminder of the blessings Jesus has brought to every believer. *“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is his body, and since we have a high priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards 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.**”*

You will notice how none of these things can be done in isolation from other believers. These are things that we must do together. And these things are exactly what the purpose of a local church is. Membership of a Bible believing church will benefit us immensely. And, therefore, the last instruction about attending the meetings of the church is very important indeed. If we fail to do so, we deprive our own souls of the benefit of the ministry and fellowship of the church. We deprive the church of our ministry and fellowship and contribution to its life. And added to all this, failure to meet together is to break this command of God and, therefore, is a great sin.

Chapter 7 Some great responsibilities for local Churches

a. To worship God together and glorify his name

We discover this right at the very beginning in Acts 2:47: when the new believers met together they were found *“praising God”*. In Ephesians 3:21 we read: *“... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”* And in Ephesians 5:19-20 we are instructed: *“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (cf. John 4:23-24, Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 4:10, Colossians 3:15-17.) If you are not sure how to praise God read Psalm 95:1-7 for an example.

This is something the followers of Jesus have always done, and delighted to do.

b. To bring the Gospel to our needy world

In Acts 2:47 we read: *“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”* While only God can save someone and add them to the church, the Lord graciously gives his people a part in this great work. Our responsibility is to tell others the good news about Jesus. Indeed, unless we tell others about him they will never come to believe in him as Paul makes clear in this passage from Romans. He tells us in Romans 10:13 that those who are being saved are those who have called on the name of

the Lord. He then goes on to tell us this: (Romans 10:14) *“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?”*

So when we put these things together it is obvious that the new church in Jerusalem was evangelising all the time. It was taking the gospel to the lost. This is what Jesus commanded before he went back to heaven. (Matthew 28:19&20) *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* And in Acts 1:8: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Now, doing these things together is more than a responsibility; it is also a privilege. When we do this as churches we do not do this work alone; others are behind us and share in the task with us, for we have the prayer support of the church members. And a real benefit of your church being involved in this work is that if you have never engaged in evangelism you can learn from the example of other members who have done so and can show you how to do it.

Chapter 8 A danger to recognise

We must also sound a note of warning. Though the true church can only consist of true believers, one of the attacks of Satan on the church is to introduce people to it who give every indication they are Christians, when in fact they are not! Jude 4 tells us their intention is destructive, immoral and blasphemous.

Therefore:

- Each church must do all in its power to ensure its members really do belong to Christ, to keep the church free of corruption from within.
- All church members must ensure they really do belong to Christ, because if they do not, their church membership will be useless in the day of judgment and heaven will be closed to them. (See Matthew 7:21ff, Matthew 25:12&41, Luke 13:25-27.)

Conclusion

As we draw this short study on ‘belonging to the people of God’ to a close, a number of points need to be emphasised.

- i. Each person must first ensure that he or she is a true Christian believer, and really does follow the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ii. Each disciple of Jesus should seek a church that loves the Lord, is faithful to the Bible, and concerned to

worship and serve God - and join that church and be committed to its life and witness.

The church is so precious to the Lord Jesus Christ that he loved the church and gave himself for it. Therefore, the church and all who belong to it are of great value to the Saviour. What a privilege it is, then, to belong to the people of God!

APPENDIX: TESTIMONIES

PETER FEARNLEY (Yateley)

Peter Fearnley has been a Christian believer for about 23 years. Peter cannot remember the precise date when he became a follower of Jesus, as he was aged only 10 or 11. However, he remembers attending a small meeting that was led by two Christians, and this was based on a 'Navigators' course. The Navigators is an organisation that produces literature to help people understand the Bible. Peter remembers it was essentially a series of questions and answers and, week-by-week, the group would answer these questions on the Bible. At the end of that period he, along with several others in the group, remembers praying to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter still was not sure that he was a Christian at that point. However, that assurance came some eight years later when he went to university. There, he came under the preaching of the word of God, and that convicted him very much of his sins. At that time he remembers going home one evening and feeling so terrible, so sinful, that the only thing

he could do was to cry to the Lord Jesus Christ. He realised he had no other course. There was nothing else he could do but plead for the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive him. Then, knowing that the word of God, the Bible, says very clearly that if anyone calls on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ they will be saved (Romans 10:13), he became certain he was a Christian. He was then aged about 18 or 19.

The immediate effect was that he had tremendous peace. He knew he had been forgiven. He realised that Jesus had become his Saviour.

Even with this assurance, Peter quickly came to realise that becoming a follower of Jesus does not mean that you suddenly stop sinning and become perfect over night. There have been many times, especially when he has heard the Bible preached, and in his daily Bible reading, that he has been convicted of the sins that still exist in his life. He has frequently had to come to the Lord for on-going forgiveness. He has discovered from the Bible and from fellowship with other Christian believers that the Lord has shown him how to correct his behaviour, and live in the right way.

Being a member of his local church is immensely helpful to Peter in his spiritual life. The fact of simply belonging to the local family of believers has been very precious to him, and helps him to realise he is not an isolated believer all on his own. He has often been challenged by the

conduct of other Christians as he has observed them. Peter has found conversation with other church members about the Lord and about the teaching of the Bible a means of useful instruction and also support. He said, "It's tremendously important that we support one another, and to know people are praying for you is a wonderful thing. When people are able to say, well, I've been praying for you and I'm thinking about you; that's a tremendous encouragement, and something that would be very, very difficult to live without."

Peter was asked how he would reply to someone who said, "I've just become a new Christian believer. I've begun to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, but I don't really want to become a member of a church anywhere." This is what he said: "I would say that the Bible very clearly speaks and tells us that we should be members of a church. That's the pattern that God has established for us. That is the way that he wants us to grow. Unless we do that, unless we do seek earnestly to join with a church, then we're putting at risk our growth and becoming closer to and more like Christ and, therefore, it's critically important that we do that, and that we do seek to find a body of believers to which we can join."

Peter has found the other members of his church a great encouragement to him, and has received many blessings and benefits from them. During difficult experiences the value of the prayers and the support and the words of encouragement from others has been immense. He has

found the advice and wisdom of other followers of the Lord to be really beneficial, especially when there have been important decisions to be made in his life. And even the corrective element of church fellowship, where other believers have been able graciously to show him things that are wrong, has been a means of promoting his spiritual growth. The loving care each member has towards the other members for their spiritual profit has been of tremendous value to him.

All this has served to strengthen the assurance of his salvation that came to him during those university days. Concerning the future, facing death and beyond, Peter said this: "I'm certain that I'm going to be with Christ in heaven ... and that Christ, as it says in the Bible, is preparing a place for us, and I'm sure my name is written in the Lamb's book of life. I'm assured of that, and that's the certain hope I have."

CLIVE ATACK (Bury)

Clive Atack is a medical photographer who works at Manchester University Dental Hospital in England. He has done this work for over 20 years.

Nine years ago Clive became a Christian believer, and this was just after his father's death. Clive's father became a follower of Jesus quite late in life, about a year before he died. This meant that, as a child, Clive was not brought up in a Christian family. And we need to go back to those earlier years of his life to see how God was at work.

As a teenager, Clive went through a very difficult period, where he had a great fear of dying. He had no idea what death was like; all he knew was that he had a great fear of it and what lay beyond. This lasted for quite a long time. Many nights he could not get to sleep, because he thought he was not going to wake up. Although he did not realise it at the time, God was beginning to make him aware that there is life beyond death, and he was not ready for it.

As time passed he seemed to grow out of that fear, but he was still not happy about how he would react if somebody close to him died. So his fear of death was replaced with the fear that he would not be able to cope with the death of a member of his family. As a child he had been shielded from death, and had never been to a funeral. However, when he was aged 19, and was serving in the army, he was posted away from home to Germany. Sadly, while he was there his grandmother, to whom he had been very close, died. That week he made his weekly telephone call home and, as usual, asked how his grandmother was, only to be told that she had died and had already been buried. It was a devastating blow and severe shock to him. He was deeply upset that he had not been told this sad news earlier and allowed to go to the funeral. Again, he had been shielded from actually confronting death, but those old fears came flooding back again.

Clive eventually married, and then his father became a Christian believer. Clive had left the army by now and was working at the dental hospital. One afternoon his wife,

Susan, telephoned him, and she said, "I'm very sorry; I've got some bad news for you. Your father's died." Now, the surprising thing was this: Clive expected to be absolutely and totally distraught and thought he would break down in tears. But he was absolutely at peace. And he had no idea why he was at peace at that moment.

The next day he travelled to his father's home to stay with his sister and her husband who, like his father, were also followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many times they had talked to Clive of the good news about Jesus, but he had always reacted very aggressively against this, and had often replied to them in words of which he is now ashamed. That very week there were two missionaries who had been to the Middle East who were speaking at the church his father and family attended. On the Sunday he was due to return home in the early afternoon. His brother-in-law had arranged for him to catch a later train because the family wanted him to go to the church. It was a meeting where the gospel was going to be preached. This is how Clive described his reaction to this: "They must be joking! I was looking forward to telling them after the meeting how silly they were to think that this sort of thing could reach me." However, as the meeting drew to a close, Clive found himself in great spiritual turmoil and felt a great pressure. Then, suddenly, all this changed and he knew he had been born again. He described it like this: "I felt this overwhelming presence of God, total peace, and assurance that God was with me. And I knew what it was to be born again. It was a wonderful and amazing

experience which has always remained with me, and particularly when I think about it, it fills me with great joy and wonder, and it makes me feel very humble. You know, why me, Lord? I'm just grateful that it was me."

From that moment on the Lord Jesus Christ became very precious to him. That preciousness has increased as time has passed. The fear of death was replaced by the assurance of heaven, and he now realises why he felt peace about his father's death, for his father had gone to be with Jesus.

His membership of his local church has been particularly beneficial to Clive. There, he has come under the ministry of the word of God, the Bible, and this has given him a greater understanding of what Jesus has done for him, particularly Jesus' death on the cross for his sin. He put it like this: "That he was perfect and spotless just overwhelms me. And I have to be very careful on occasions, in the ministry of the word, not to physically and emotionally break down. Not that I think there's anything wrong with that, but it could distract other people from hearing the gospel. But it is totally amazing that the Son of God could die and bleed for me, you know, to wash me clean. I don't think as human beings we can ever comprehend just how horrendous that is for the Son of God to go out of the presence of his Father for the first time in his existence."

Clive has found belonging to the people of God helpful in these ways:

- That all members of his church have known the Lord at work in their lives, saving them from sin, has made Clive aware of his oneness with them. This has given him a love for them, and they in turn love and care for him, just as it is in a family.
- The times of regular prayer with the rest of the church have been a great encouragement, particularly during difficult times when he has been feeling very low. The support of the family of Christ has strengthened and helped him.
- The times for Bible teaching have been both instructive and uplifting and made him realise the need to attend the church meetings as often as is possible.
- Clive has come to realise that commitment to Christ also includes commitment to his people, the church. He feels that there must be something wrong with those who claim to be followers of Jesus but who do not want to meet with his people, as we have discovered in '*Sound Words*' as we looked at Hebrews 10:19-25.
- Clive has found he needs the encouragement and the support of the body of Christ. He has realised we were not designed to be isolated Christians, but to be a group of people supporting and uplifting each other, and working together for the glory of the Lord. He has

discovered the fellowship, the guidance, and even sometimes the admonishment of the members a blessing, because he knows through these the Lord is strengthening him.

When asked what was his greatest desire, Clive replied, "... to be more used by the Lord, so I can honour Jesus in my life."

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