



## Spiritual Health – Do I Love The Church?

January 29, 2023

**Word** — A healthy Christian knows God through the applied word of God under the direction and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

**Worship** — A healthy Christian manifests a lifestyle of worship and prayer based on close daily communion with God.

**Warmth** — A healthy Christian engages in meaningful life-on-life relationships that reflect the love of God and leave people impacted and changed.

**Witness** — A healthy Christian lives under the commission of Christ to win and grow disciples, integrating outreach into all aspects of life.

**Works** — A healthy Christian builds up the body of Christ through their spiritual gifts and passions.

**Wisdom** — A healthy Christian manages their skills, money, and time putting them under the Lordship of Jesus.

*We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers...*  
1 John 3:14 (ESV)

### What Does A Healthy Christian Look Like?



## How are Christians built for others in the local church?

### 1. We are not saved individually but into the body of Christ.

*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*  
1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV)

*In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*  
Ephesians 2:22 (ESV)

## 2. God gifted us to serve others in our local church.

*For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 1 Corinthians 12:14–18 (ESV)*

- If I don't use my gifts, the entire body (the church) suffers.
- I don't choose my gifts. God chose the gifts He wants for me.

*To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...*  
1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)

- God gifted me to serve others in the church, not myself.
- God gives spiritual gifts and natural gifts. Both are needed in the church.

## 3. God wants us to fulfill the one-another commands in our local church.

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another...* James 5:16 (ESV)

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.* Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

*...pray for one another...* James 5:16 (ESV)

*Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.* 1 Peter 4:9 (ESV)

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* 1 John 4:7 (ESV)

# Why should we love the church?

## 1. The church is the only thing Jesus promised to build and bless.

*...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*  
Matthew 16:18 (ESV)

*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*  
John 13:35 (ESV)

## 2. The church is going to win in the end.

*...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.  
Matthew 16:18 (ESV)*

## 3. The church is God's most precious possession on earth.

*Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.  
Acts 20:28 (ESV)*

## 4. The church is the best place of worship.

*...who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus... Philippians 3:3 (ESV)*

## 5. The church matures us in Christ.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV)*

# Why should I be a member of CrossWinds Church?

## 1. We are not saved to be alone. We are saved into the church.

A. We are a stone in a building.

*...you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.  
1 Peter 2:5 (ESV)*

B. We are a body part that is not designed to function alone.

*For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...  
Romans 12:4–6 (ESV)*

## 2. We are needed at CrossWinds and gifted by God to serve others.

## 3. We are commanded to use our gifts to serve others at CrossWinds in the one-another commands.

## 4. The church is the only institution God promised to build and bless.

## 5. The church is God's most precious possession on earth.

6. The church is the place where God uniquely dwells among His people.
7. Regularly attending and serving in the local church matures us in Christ.
8. Choosing not to join and serve in the local church is an unnecessary disobedience.
9. If Jesus is not ashamed to call us His, why are we ashamed to belong to those who are His?

## Application

- **Become a member and serve at CrossWind.**
  - The next membership class is Wednesday nights, February 8, 15, and 22, from 6:30 to 8:00 in the church office. Sign up on the **Spirit Lake** page of the church app with the **Sign Up!** button or call the church office 712-336-3537.
- **Join a Life Group.**
  - Sign up on the **Home Page** of the church app with the **Join a Group** button or call the church office 712-336-3537.

### Life Group Questions

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1. Review the message on your sermon handout. What did you learn that was new? What parts were reviews?
2. Before this study, how important did you think it was to be involved in the local church to live a healthy Christian life?
3. What is unhealthy about attending CrossWinds but not building relationships and serving in CrossWinds?
4. Pastor Kurt gave five reasons why we should love the church. Review them in the outline. Which is your favorite and why?
5. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.** What do these verses teach us about natural and spiritual gifts and what God expects us to do with them?
6. Were the one-another commands of the Bible new to you? How do these commands change the way you think about your involvement in church?
7. A healthy Christian creates a healthy church filled with relational warmth that draws others to Jesus. From this sermon, what is one thing you will do to help CrossWinds be filled with more relational warmth because you are part of it?
8. If you are not a member, will you become a member? If not, what is holding you back?