

What Is the Church Meant to Be?

by Mark Emery

Part 2: Called to Action, Not Observation

If the Church is a body, as we saw in Part 1, then it follows that it must be a *living* body—one that moves, responds, and acts. It should be a body that is exercised, in-shape, and growing in health and strength.

This raises an important question:

Is the Christian life something we primarily *observe*, or something we are called to *participate in*?

Scripture is clear.

In **James 1:22**, we read:

“But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

Hearing matters. Learning matters. Teaching matters.

But they are not the end goal.

The Word of God is not meant to stop at our ears, or to be expounded upon by one person—it is meant to take root in our lives, shaping how we live, how we love, and how we serve.

Jesus Himself gives us a picture of this outward movement in the Great Commission. In **Matthew 28:19–20**, He says:

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Notice the commands: *Go. Make. Teach.*

The Christian life is not centered on staying in one place, but on moving outward—into relationships, into conversations, into the everyday moments of life where faith becomes visible.

And this is not something we do alone.

In **Hebrews 10:24–25**, we are encouraged:

“And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.”

There is a shared responsibility here.

We are called to *stir one another up*—to encourage, challenge, and support each other toward lives marked by love and good works.

This means the Church is not a place where a few act and many watch.

It is a people where *each person* is invited into the life of faith.

A Church that embraces this calling begins to look different.

It becomes a place where:

- faith is not only spoken, but lived
- love is not only taught, but demonstrated
- people are not only present, but engaged

It's important to remember that this kind of participation does not require perfection, only willingness.

A willingness to step forward.

A willingness to serve.

A willingness to live out what we believe.

And when that begins to happen—even in small ways—the Church comes alive in a new way.

Not because something new has been invented, but because something *ancient and true* is being lived out as it was always meant to be.

Takeaway:

The Christian life is not something we watch from the sidelines—it is something we step into. And as each of us begins to live it out, we help bring the Church to life around us.

Questions to ponder:

How is the health of the body of Harmony Baptist Church? Do I feel welcome to provoke love and good works? If you have an idea that could help grow the body of Harmony, let's talk. I have time and energy to help you bring it to fruition.

Coming next...

- ◆ **PART 3 — The Christian Life Is Marked by Freedom, Not Fear**