

Taking ^{the} next Step

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Dr. Bill Langley

Get In The Family

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and FOLLOW ME." (Luke 9:23 NKJV)

"...You are members of God's very own family, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Ephesians 2:19 LB)

WHY IS BELONGING TO THE RIGHT CHURCH IMPORTANT?

1. It provides me _____.

"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." (Hebrews 10:25 NIV 1984)

2. It provides me _____.

"So let us stop going over the basics of Christianity again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding." (Hebrews 6:1 NLT)

"(They) were baptized and added to the church ... They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching ... They worshiped together at the Temple each day and met in homes for the Lord's Supper..." (Acts 2:41,42,46 NLT).

3. It provides me _____.

"But my life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus – the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God." (Acts 20:24 NLT)

4. It provides me _____.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." (1 Peter 4:10 NIV 1984)

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." (Ephesians 4:11-12 NIV 1984)

WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK BEFORE I JOIN A CHURCH?

- What is the _____?
- What is the _____?
- What is the _____?

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO A CHURCH?

1. Active participation in a church will _____.

"To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours..." (1 Corinthians 1:2 NIV 1984)

2. Active participation in a church will _____.

"All of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude." (1 Peter 3:8 NLT)

3. Active participation in a church will _____.

"...Christ loved the church and gave himself for her." (Ephesians 5:25 NKJV)

Jesus said, "I will build My church." (Matthew 16:18 NKJV)