



## Why it's important for the College Student to be plugged into the local Church

Paul tells us in Ephesians 1:22, 23: "And God placed all things under his feet 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." The Church is the Body of Christ, of which He is the head. The Church is also broken up into 2 ways:

- **1. The universal Church** — all believers now and past who have received salvation through faith in Jesus.
- **2. The local church** — a local body of believers who gather together in their particular context

Three reasons it's important to be plugged into the local church:

### 1. To be Nurtured:

The Christian goes to Church to be led by the Pastor in both Word and Sacrament, which is baptism and communion. Hearing the Word each week allows us to be challenged as we live to glorify Christ. When we take communion it reminds us of His sacrifice on the cross for our sins. The Church is the foundation where growth happens and we are nurtured.

### 2. To Worship (with other Saints):

The Christian goes to church to worship (along with other saints). In this setting, we are able to encourage other believers by singing praises to the Lord side by side in community. In this setting, we are able to hear the different trials our brothers and sisters are going through; in response, we can offer encouragement through prayer, accountability and acts of service.

### 3. To be Used by God:

We are given gifts through the Holy Spirit. By being plugged into the church, we are able to use our gifts for the edification of others. Whether we serve in children's ministry, on the music team, or welcoming guests in, it's important to use the gifts the Lord has given us for His service and for the service of others.

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During the craziness of this time, especially when getting used to a new community and college, I want to encourage you to fight the temptation to take Sundays off. Instead, I encourage you to be a part of the local church, so that you can grow and encourage growth in the lives of the other believers in your community.

-The Connect Camps Team