Salvation is a personal decision, but living the Christian life was never meant to be a solo journey. It’s not enough to say, “I am saved,” and then choose to worship God alone, isolated from the body of Christ. God designed us to live, grow, and thrive in community — within the Church. Ignoring this design puts our spiritual growth and stability at great risk.

To illustrate this, think of a student who says, “I don’t need school; I’ll just study by myself at home.” While it sounds ambitious, the truth is, they would miss out on essential things: teachers who clarify what they don’t understand, classmates who help in discussions, the discipline of structured learning, motivation from a shared journey, and many other growth opportunities. Alone, the chances of reaching their full potential are slim.

The same is true in our spiritual lives. Though salvation is individual — between a person and God — remaining strong in salvation, maturing in faith, and serving effectively requires community.
That is why the Bible commands us not to isolate ourselves. In Hebrews 10:24–25, it says:

> “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” *(NIV)*

Fellowship with other believers helps us stay accountable, strengthens us when we are weak, and stirs us up to continue in good works.

Additionally, Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 teaches about the strength found in unity:

> “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:
> If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.
> Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?
> Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” *(NIV)*

Spiritual battles are real (Ephesians 6:12), and having fellow believers alongside you is crucial for encouragement, accountability, and strength.

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The Early Church’s Example

The first Christians understood the importance of gathering together. After receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, they immediately formed a community.
Acts 2:42, 46–47 says:

> “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. [...] Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.” *(NIV)*

They not only worshiped together but also shared meals, supported each other, and learned the apostles’ doctrine.

Church was never just an event — it was a lifestyle of mutual love, encouragement, and service.

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Benefits of Being in the Church

1. Mutual Encouragement
   Paul longed to encourage and be encouraged by the Roman believers. He wrote in Romans 1:11–12:

> “I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong — that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.” *(NIV)*

2. Spiritual Accountability and Correction
   Christians are called to lovingly correct and serve one another. Galatians 5:13 says:

> “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.” *(NIV)*

3. Operation of Spiritual Gifts
   God gave spiritual gifts to build up the Church, not for personal use only.
   Ephesians 4:11–12 explains:

> “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” *(NIV)*

Similarly, 1 Corinthians 12 speaks of different gifts given by the Holy Spirit, all meant for the benefit of the body of Christ — not for isolated individuals.

Conclusion: You Cannot Separate Salvation from the Church

Salvation is personal, but spiritual growth happens in community. God’s design is for every believer to be planted firmly within a gathering of believers — the Church — where they can be taught, encouraged, corrected, and strengthened.

You were never meant to worship God alone, detached from the body of Christ.
Church is not a man-made tradition; it is God’s idea, for your good.

Amen.

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