



The Church is referred to in scripture (among other things) as a Building, a Bride, and Body. The beauty of these pictures is that the various metaphors illustrate the truth that there is *unity* within *diversity*. The church has both a local identity and expression but there is also a universal bond in Christ. While she is compared to a beautiful Bride she is also seen as an unfaithful wife. The truth remains that Christ came and gave himself up for his Church and therefore it is the institution that he left on earth to finish the work of taking the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Looking back ::

A student's time in FSM had two distinct functions of the local church. (1) Cell Group (2) Sunday morning worship. These two experiences laid the foundation for everything that took place in FSM. It was the community that students were a part of. It was the pastoral team that led them. It was the method of discipleship for their lives. Upon graduation, that season of life almost always ends. The transition to *church in college* is often very difficult because the framework for their church is no longer available in its present form for students.

Look up Scripture ::

1 Corinthians 12:12-20 :: one body, many members Ephesians

5:25-29 :: the bride of Christ

Acts 2:42-47 :: a picture of the early NT church

Discuss ::

Have your cell leaders describe what the *church in college* was like for them? What did they learn? What would they have done differently?

Describe a four year season where you are not involved in a local church body.

Rank in personal order of importance (1st – 5th) what functions of the church you find the most necessary in your daily walk with Christ :

Community - Scriptural Teaching - Discipleship relationship - Corporate Worship - Missions

Looking ahead ::

For most all college students, a deep integration into the local church doesn't happen in college. This is true for a couple of reasons. College students and their schedules are very unconventional. They stay up late at night and disappear for months at a time. Also, most colleges have strong campus ministries that often take the place of the church functions of cell, community, and corporate worship. While we don't discourage participation at all, you should know it does result in an extreme disconnect.

Recommendations ::

Pursue biblical community – Whether its in a local church or campus ministry, find like minded people and biblical discipleship and pursue Christ together.

Find a church home and stay put – Don't just be a podcaster. Commit to a church.

Serve somewhere in a local church – It's the body of Christ and churches need you!

Don't Drop the Gospel ::

1. *Desertion* from the Gospel (Gal 1:6) :: Don't walk away from your faith in Christ.
2. Adopt a *Different* Gospel (Gal 1:6) :: Nothing else in life is "good news" except Christ.
3. *Distort* the Gospel (Gal 1:7) :: Spend time in the Bible to stay grounded in Christ.
4. Attempt to *Divide* the Gospel (Gal 1:10) You can't serve two masters. Its man or Christ.