

**Group 4** - will meet today after the morning service at Barrett & Aimee Cain's home.

## I Don't Want To Be Involved

In theory, none would deny the importance of the local body of believers. Our participation, however, sometimes belies the true sentiment of our hearts. Much of this discrepancy would be alleviated if we were to truly come to understand the concept of "membership" in the body. Listen to Paul: "For as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, we being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another," (Romans 12:4,5). Membership in a local church implies much more than simply having one's name and picture in a directory. It acknowledges that we are willing to fulfill the "one another" obligations that are essential to the relationship, i.e. "love," "serve," "bear with," "admonish," "forgive," etc.

What can we do to be better involved in the local church? Let me suggest several things.

**First, realize your dependence.** No Christian can function effectively by himself. Just as a hand severed from an arm ceases to function and will inevitably die, so also a Christian who does not participate with the others members of the body is destined to decay and die spiritually. Sometimes you hear a brother say, "I don't need the local church. I can function just fine by myself." Really? Then you're saying you know

more about spiritual health than the apostle Paul. He taught that one member can never say to another, "I don't need you!" (1 Corinthians 15:21).

**Second emphasize equality.** No member of a local body of believers should feel smug or superior to any other, (Romans 12:3). God designed both the physical and spiritual body so that all the members are important. The applications of this principle are legion. Member of our physical body are quick to aid any injured member, they do not ambitiously draw attention to themselves in order to protect a weaker member of the body. So also in the local church, when we learn to "bear one's another's burdens" to "bear the infirmities of the weak" -- when we do that, the body as a whole is strengthened.

**Third, work for unity.** God designed the human body to love harmony and hate discord. In fact, when there is discord in the human body we say that it has a "disease." The principle holds true spiritually as well. That's why Paul encourages us to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace," (Ephesians 4:3).

Now, how healthy would the body be if every member functions just like you?

-Don C. Truex

### The church of Christ

meeting at 900 E. Natoma  
PO Box 492  
Folsom, CA 95630  
916/608-4866

### Elders

Forrest Brown: 530/295-9230  
Randy Clark: 916/939-5066  
Rich Ladd: 916/774-9048  
David Posey: 530/676-9514  
Terry Raposa: 916/782-1140  
Dennis Reagan: 916/797-5539

### Deacons

Brent Agee: 916/786-0436  
Bryan Byrd: 916/351-9320  
David Byrd: 916/985-6564  
Barrett Cain: 916/351-0774  
Michael Caisse: 530/672-2902  
Jeff Clark: 916/985-8689  
John Daniels: 916/985-3090  
Jerry Deschler: 916/595-9956  
Steve Dickey: 916/983-1071  
Eric Fields: 916/817-6495  
David Main: 916/710-6920  
Dane Scott: 916/631-7221  
Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748  
Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170  
Jeff Warshaw: 916/933-9399  
Brett Zugnoni: 916/817-6435

### Evangelist/Editor

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### Service Times

Sunday Morning Assembly  
9:30 AM  
Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study  
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.

Private classes arranged at your convenience.

[www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com)

## Blessed Is He Who Reads

Reading is a lost art, I fear. It's a very ancient act, of course, but in our multimedia age, many have forgotten the importance of it. The skill of reading, the value of reading, and even the enjoyment of reading are lost on most of us nowadays.

Developing a deeper devotion to God, however, is impossible without a good bit of reading: we must either read the Scriptures for ourselves or have them read to us. As John began the great prophecy of Revelation, he wrote, "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy" (1:3). There is a blessing that comes from the reading and hearing of God's word that can't be gained by any other means.

**Private Reading.** There are very few of us who are reading the Scriptures privately as often as we need to. We may study a Bible lesson or two for our attendance at the local congregation, and we may follow along as the preacher reads a passage from the Bible now and then, but not many of us make the reading of God's word a regular part of our daily routine.

If you're serious about spiritual growth, you need to read the Bible every day. You need to read through the entire Bible on a regular basis, at least once a year. You need to read longer sections of the text, taking in whole books of the Bible at one or two sittings whenever possible. And while a detailed "study" of the Bible is also important, you need to simply read the Bible as often as you can, so that the sense of the text as a whole can make its proper impression on you.

In addition to your reading, you will also profit from listening to recordings of the Bible being read by readers who really know how to read. Cassette or CD sets of the entire Bible as an "audio book" are available, and if you'll learn to use these regularly, you may find that you enjoy hearing God's word read while you're driving, doing chores around the house, and so forth.

**Public Reading.** When John said, "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this

prophecy," he probably had in mind the public reading of inspired writings in the Christian assembly. And when Paul directed Timothy to "give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (1 Tim. 4:13), he may also have had in mind the reading of the Scriptures when the saints assembled.

Today, many congregations include a "Scripture reading" as a part of their assembly, but unfortunately, the reading rarely includes more than a few verses. Wouldn't it be profitable to have longer readings, even if it meant the preacher had to abbreviate his lesson to make room for the reading? And wouldn't it also be profitable if those who accepted the responsibility to read took that duty more seriously, carefully preparing and practicing the reading so that the real meaning of the text was made evident to the hearers by the manner in which it was read?

As a preacher, I've recently decided to slow down and actually turn to more of the passages that I cite. I am urging my listeners to turn to the passages in their own Bibles, and I am reading not only the verse that pertains to my point but also the surrounding context, with as little comment from me as possible.

I believe that I've been depriving my hearers of hearing the text read, and I've decided to rectify that. I've actually come around to this radical position: neither quoting the passage from memory nor projecting it on a PowerPoint slide is a good substitute for the preacher and the audience both turning to the text and reading it together in their own Bibles.

"Blessed is he who reads and he who hears," said John. Personally, I'm going to do more reading from God's word, both privately and publicly, and I'm going to seek out more opportunities to hear God's word read by others. How about you?

-Gary Henry



## Harboring Grudges

One of the most immature and petty of human practices is that of harboring a grudge against our fellow-man. The nature of the offense is even more aggravated when we observe the practice among brethren in Christ.

What is a grudge? It is merely the leftovers of an unforgiving heart. It is a clear manifestation of a lack of love. While most of our Bible translations don't contain the word, the following passages deal with the subject:

*"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" - Ephesians 4:32.*

*"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" - Colossians 3:13.*

*"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also" - 1 John 4:20-21*

If these and a host of other similar passages were observed, the harboring of grudges and its antecedent evils would not exist.

All sins have a deteriorating effect upon those who commit them. But none seems to effect such a rapid corruption of character and personality as that of harboring grudges. Unfortunately, the guilty party is usually the last one to realize that any change has taken place.

So, brother or sister, turn loose of that grudge you have carried all these years. Repent of your lack of love. Forgive and be free from that horrible weight of both the grudge and the guilt of sin.

-Bob West

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## Where to reach those who are ill or shut-in...

### Addresses:

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#### Hospitals:

Mercy Folsom  
1650 Creekside Dr., Folsom, CA 95630  
(916) 983-7400

Sutter Memorial Hospital  
5151 F St, Sacramento, CA 95819  
(916) 454-3333

Kaiser Permanente Roseville  
1600 Eureka Rd, Roseville, CA 95661

Kaiser Permanente Hospital Sacramento  
2016 Morse Ave, Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 817-5660

UCD Medical Center  
2315 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95817  
800-2-UC-DAVIS  
(916) 734-2011

Marshall Hospital  
1100 Marshall Way, Placerville, CA 95667  
530-622-1441 or 916-933-0913