



SABBATH 2—JANUARY 13, 2024

The One-Person Church

Ephesians 5:27—“That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

Have you ever thought about what the church would be like if all its members were like you? Think of what church fellowship could be if everyone prayed and read the Bible as you do. Imagine what missionary work would be like if all church members took the same time as you do to share the truth with others. Imagine what church upkeep and mission investment would be like if all members returned tithes and offerings as regularly as you do.

What would this church, made up of people like you, be like? What church picture did you manage to paint in your mind? This one-person church exists: It is you! Sometimes we think that our attitudes as individuals do not affect the church as a whole. We might think, If I don't give Bible studies, someone will, and the message will be preached to the whole world; or, If I'm not faithful in returning tithes and offerings, someone else will, and the church will have resources for the maintenance of the local congregations and for preaching around the world. In a sense, this is true. God's cause will triumph with or without your resources. Similarly, the gospel will be preached worldwide with or without your involvement.

The significant fact here is that this church formed by me alone always influences someone close to me, like my children, spouse, parents, and siblings. Commitment or carelessness to God's faithfulness and cause can make or break people around me. One day a father said, “The greatest legacy I am leaving to my children is the example set by a life dedicated to the cause of God, and I hope they dedicate themselves to this cause more diligently than I do.”

Appeal: If someone asked you, how much you love Jesus' cause, how would you answer? The best way to respond is not with words, but with a life completely dedicated and committed to God's work. We must understand that this is the acid test of our Christian discipleship.

