

## 1 Corinthians 12:28

*And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.*

If you have been going to church for a while now, you may have noticed that every once in a while, there are those who come into the church and want to be a part of it, but they also come in with their own agenda. They want to see things ran differently, or the way they want it to be run. And if the leadership does not listen to them and things have not changed the way that they want them to be, then they will go to another church and try to change it.

Yet for those who do, I have this to say to you. God did not bring you to the church you are in so that you can change it into what you want it to be, But rather, God has brought you to that church to change you into what He wants you to be.

Think about marriage. When you met your spouse and you decided to get married, you did not do so with the intent of changing that man or woman into what you want them to be. No, you married them because you love the way they were already. But it's when spouses try to change the one they married into what they think he or she should be, is when bad things start to happen in the marriage.

I know in my marriage, we both loved how we each had a personal relationship with the Lord, and we have no desire to change that in one another. I can't tell my wife to love Jesus more, or how to love Him, she already knows how. The same goes for her towards me, she knows I love the Lord and I have a great relationship with Him. So in our marriage, when we got married, we did not desire to change each other, but rather to love the Lord together, in our own way, but as one.

The same is true in the church. Those that are there and are believers, already have a personal relationship with the Lord, and God won't bring us there to change that relationship that they have with the Lord, but to join with them as one Church, one Bride of Jesus Christ.

Now that does not mean that you don't do anything in the church, or even have ideas to help out. One example is that in our church, the lights in the sanctuary were those dull, yellow, old-fashioned lights, so I suggested changing the lightbulbs to a brighter (bluer), natural lighting, and not only did I suggest it, but I also gave some money to help pay for them (I don't say these things to brag on myself). And the leadership agreed, and they took the money and bought the lights, changed them out, and the next Sunday, when people came into the sanctuary, they commented on how much brighter and inviting it felt. It wasn't a game changing thing, but rather was something that I saw (Hopefully through the eyes of the Holy Spirit) to help out in the church.

But notice I also said I gave some money to help out with getting this done. That's important, because if all you do is come in and give all your ideas and opinions without lifting a finger or your wallet to help out, then you just become a bunch of hot air wanting things done your way but refusing to help get them done. No, I didn't have to give money to help out with my suggestion, but by doing so, it showed how sincere I was about it, and how I wanted to be a part of it.

So for all of us, let's pray and ask the Lord how He wants to use us in the church that is already running under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and how we can be a part of what the Holy Spirit is doing in the church we are in. Not so the church can be changed, but rather so our hearts can be changed and more in line with the Holy Spirit.

† **1 Corinthians 12:27** *Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.*

† **1 Corinthians 12:18** *But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.*

† **1 Corinthians 12:27 (MSG)** *You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.*