

Living-the-Church-Life-Part-2

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 21 October 2013

Preacher: David Antwi

[0 : 00] Thanks for checking in on this podcast. You are about to hear an inspirational teaching from Caris Ministries. If God has used this ministry to bless you in any way, please take a moment and write to us at amen@caris.org.

We are always inspired and blessed to hear how God is blessing people all over the world through what he is doing here at Caris. Also, if you would like to support this ministry financially, you can do so online at caris.org so we can continue making podcasts such as this available free of charge. I started talking about the church life. Let's all say the church life. Please say it again. Yesterday, when we were doing the workers' meetings, someone asked a very interesting and a very good... He asked me, I made a statement, and listen, I'm going to repeat that. I said that when Christ comes, he's not coming back for... He's not coming to collect Christians. He's coming back for the church.

And then someone asked me the question, but what if you say that? What's the meaning? Because Christians, church is made up of Christians. So if you can say Christ is not coming for the church, and for the, sorry, for the, for Christians, just Christians, but for the church, what exactly do you mean?

[1 : 16] And I explained this because we have to understand that, you see, we have been called into a church life, not just a Christian life. A church life. The church is a community of people.

One. We share, we have... Listen to this, this is a very beautiful thing. You know the difference between a body and a business? The church is not a business.

The church is a body. That's why it's a problem when some pastors run the church like a business. God, the church is not a business. It's different from Tesco.

Though the same people you see in Tesco are the people you see in church. Or Asda, or Morrison, or Sainsbury's, or wherever. The same. The same people you see at the train station, the pastor, the same people you see in church.

So what's the difference between a body and a business? A business has not got a life. The body has got a life. That's one. Number two, the church is not just an organization.

[2 : 28] Okay? But the church is an organism. The difference between an organization and an organism, watch this, an organization is the assembling of different parts together to make one unit.

So different, different, different aspects, different departments, different parts, we come together and it's kind of a one unit. Whilst a body, watch this, a body is different in the sense that a body has one shared life.

So if you cut my finger, the blood that flows out is the same blood that will flow out if you cut my ankle. Same blood. Because one life, do you realize that, and sometimes you are sick or you have a headache, you go to the hospital, and then they give you injection.

No, my problem is not here. My problem is my head. Why do you give me the injection there? I've got a major, some big problem in my legs, and you are giving me some intravenous infusion from here.

The problem is not here, it's there. But you know what? Anything that enters here affects every part of the body. That's the, a body is one shared life. So anything that affects the ear, guess what?

[3 : 47] Affects the whole body. Anything that affects the toe, guess what? Affects the whole body. That's the difference between a body and an organism. An organism is one shared life.

So if the life lives, the whole organism is wasted. But whilst an organization, it's different, a conglomeration of different parts, bringing them together to make one.

So when I talk about a church life, Jesus is not coming for individuals. Jesus is not coming for a church life. Jesus is not coming for a church life. Jesus is not coming for a church life. There's no

way in the Bible you find, the Bible says that God is coming back for a me, or a him, or a she, or a her.

He's coming for an us, US. An us, because no one can be by yourself. So Jesus died for the church.

So there is a problem, if you are a Christian, and you are not part of a local church, which is a local expression of a universal church, there is a problem about, a big question mark about your Christianity.

[4 : 53] It takes Christians to make a church. All right? So when it's coming, it's not about, okay, you are not like this, you are not like this. When I was growing up, we were made to feel that when Christ comes, he will leave you.

No, it's coming once you are part of the church. It's like you are in a plane. If the plane is bound to Heathrow, is bound Heathrow, or is going to land in Heathrow, once you are, whether in first class, second class, third class, fifth class, we are all going to go to Heathrow.

Remember the story about that gentleman who was traveling to Lagos, and he was told that, this is your first time on the plane, as soon as you sit in the plane, don't get down, or don't get up, just sit down until the plane arrives.

So as soon as he entered the plane, he went and sat in the business class. And they came and told him, they said, you are not supposed to sit here, because your seat is over there.

He said, no, I'm not going anywhere. He said, no, no, you have to. He said, no, no, no, leave me alone. Why? They said, if you don't move, the plane is not taking off. Everybody tried. For 30 minutes, this man, all kinds of display.

[6 : 01] And they even brought some airport officials, security officials, to come and get him off the plane, if he would not move. He said, I'm not moving anywhere. And he became, and the guy was a very strong man. And guess what? One brother in the plane said, don't worry, leave him for me.

I know what to do. So he went to the guy and whispered something in his ears. As soon as he whispered, the guy, this guy who said, I will not get up, got up, took his back, and then he went straight to where he was going.

He went and sat down. A few seconds. Everybody was surprised. What did you tell the man? He said, don't worry. I just told him that this part of the plane is not going to Lagos. It's going to Abuja.

If you are going to Lagos, the other side, this one is going to Abuja. Little did he know that once you are in the plane and he lands, wherever he lands, you are dead.

Once you are a member of the church, once you are a part of the church, and Jesus said, I'm coming for the church, then when he's coming, provided you are still in church, you are still in faith.

[7 : 16] Ah, this is interesting theology, isn't it? We were taught all kinds of religious ideas. And so God, this is a good one, God is the God of the world.

God is a church. God is a church God. Let's say that together. God is a church God. One more time, please. God is a church God. So if you don't like the church, I'm sorry.

God can't help you. Because God is, He loves the church so much that He has to come and die for the church. In the end of the five, the Bible says that, husbands love your wives just as Christ loved the church, not the people.

He loved, God so loved the world, but Christ loved the church. And died for the church, not for the world. He gave Himself so that anyone in the world can become part of the church.

So when He's coming back, guess what He's coming for? The church. He's coming for what He died for and nothingness. And so those of us who have had the privilege, ow! It's a privilege to be in church.

[8 : 27] Don't let our modern day community, society make you feel like, oh, being in church, you are wasting your time. Don't make church second class. Don't make church like, when you have time, make church, make your worship center in your life.

If you make God central, He'll make you central in life. But if you make God second class in life, you will remain. Where you are, you are on your own.

Our community and our society and our generation makes people feel it's a mistake to place worship and make worship important. But brothers and sisters, worship is important.

Don't wait till you get, to a certain stage in your life and you realize that all your life is vain and empty. Without God. Without God, your life is empty.

There's no meaning to your life. Doesn't matter, you can spend, it doesn't matter how much you spend on your hair. Guess what?

[9 : 24] Last three months you did it. Spend so much money. Now you have to do another one. But then, it doesn't matter how much money you spend on your car.

Life is meaningless without God. May I tell someone? Life is meaningless without God. Life is meaningless without God. Life is mean, I don't believe, I don't believe, it's your own problem. I'm telling you. Life is meaningless without God. It doesn't matter. Whether you believe or not, you will find out later. But life is meaningless without God. Yes, yes.

Life is meaningless without God. So don't let anybody bully you and intimidate you out of worship. No one qualifies, don't give anyone that privilege of intimidating you out of worship.

Later on, only to realize that they have gone ahead. You are now struggling. Bishop David Oedipo said, you can't place God first and be last in life.

[10 : 31] It can't happen. It cannot happen. Church life. Say church life. Church life. So he has called us into the church. Uh-oh.

Ah, so he saved us so he can be in church. Yes, sir. Really? Why is it that then church people are so funny because you are one of them? He's not dealing with us based on our physical strength. Other than that, he wouldn't have saved us. He's dealing with us based on our relationship with him through Christ. So what's the definition of the church? The definition of the church is Christ in you, Christ in her, Christ in me, Christ in them, Christ in us.

That is the church. So now, this church life we have been called to live, how do we live the church life? Romans chapter 12, I want to submit to you the five aspects of the church life.

Five aspects. Romans chapter 12, right from verse. 9.

[11 : 53] Romans 12, verse 9 and 10 says that let love be without hypocrisy. I told you the other time on Wednesday that the Greek word translated hypocrisy is anupokritos and anupokritos is like let it be not fake, let it be genuine.

If you are loving, let it be genuine, okay, when you love. It says that let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil.

Anything, that's the church life. Anything that looks evil, abhor it, but let me just be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love in honor preferring one another.

Yeah, in honor preferring one another. So now, the first aspect of the church life is one. It's towards others. Towards others, okay. So we have the church life is towards others.

The second, I'll explain it all. The second one is towards God. The third one towards ourselves.

Fourth one towards persecutors and enemies. And the fifth one towards people in general, all men in general.

[13 : 12] So if you are a church woman, a church man, or a Christian for that matter, which many people understand and appreciate it better, if you are a Christian, then first of all, you have a responsibility towards others, other Christians.

So a Christian who can relate to other Christians is a questionable Christian. Answer me, hmm, hmm, hey, hmm, this church thing I go, I don't like anybody there.

These people, they are all hypocrites, and you are the biggest one talking. If you have been forgiving your sins, then you appreciate the value of accepting others.

Because in the first place, God didn't have any business accepting you. I mean, if you look at yourself and look at the things you've done in the past, even people are sitting here right now, the kind of thoughts that have been going through your mind.

If people find out what you are thinking, hey, in church, ah, at least wait, after you leave church, why are you thinking like that about that lady? Why are you thinking about that brother? Why are you thinking about that brother food?

[14 : 29] So we are very interesting creatures, human beings. So then if God should relate to us based on who we are, we will not have any chance.

So I always tell church people, stop pointing fingers at people. Why do you think that's for you? It's okay for you to be in church, but this person, ah, hey, leave them to God and concentrate on yourself because I think there's a few mess around you.

It doesn't sound nice at all, isn't it? But it sounds so true. So, stop focusing on others and thinking God shouldn't listen to others, thinking God shouldn't bless this person the way he's blessing him, thinking that God, look at this, I mean, I even fast better than this one.

God, I think I deserve a better husband. I deserve a better wife because you see someone, this wife, you think you should have her. You see, that tells us who you are. So, first of all, it's relationship towards others or towards others.

so, the church life has everything to do with how we treat other believers. That's where it starts from because the church life is a community life.

[15 : 48] It's a corporate life. Do you know one thing I discovered about God? Very interesting. God doesn't work with, doesn't, is not interested in collecting many individuals.

He's interested in working with one person in other one. One, one man. All of us are one. Have you thought about this? Why didn't he create many Adams?

Think about it. I mean, God could have done that. It's very easy. Look at the animals. He just created a letter and they were there. They were just coming. So, God could have even, Eve, he could have said, okay, Adam, Eve, come.

He could have created Adam and Eve or could have created a few of them. first family. So, he created Adam and Eve, he created some nice other daughters and nice other sons, create all of them together, then boom, then it starts.

No, but he created one. That's how God works. He created one man and then when that one man needed another person because, you see, actually listen, God did not create Adam to be by himself.

[16 : 58] He created Adam for a relationship because God is a community even in himself. God, I've said it before, God is the self-contained community. Three in one, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit because God believes in community.

God is a family God. He calls himself Father. Family terminology. Please, let me digress to say this. If you have the privilege of having children or being married, please, don't be in a hurry to leave that man or in a hurry to leave that woman or don't be in a hurry to leave their children because God has family on his mind.

God blesses families. So, when you are doing something that is going to pull family down and expecting God to bless you anyway, it's going to be a problem. Oh, man, I'm tired.

I can't handle this woman again. I'm tired. The children will manage it. They know I love them. It's not just about that. Commitment to their future and their family blessing and the legacy of heaven over their family means that some of us need to pay extreme prices to keep family going.

Somebody say family. Family. God thinks about family. Why did he say that honor your mother and your father so it will be well with you? Think about it. Mother and father, family terminology. God is a family God.

[18 : 20] He describes himself God the father, God the son. He's a family God. So, anyone who trivializes family is trivializing something that is at the heart of God. That is why he has to even call the church a family.

It's serious. So, brothers and sisters, those of us who are not yet married, don't be in a hurry to grab someone because once you start family, you get God's attention and if you break family, you get God's attention in a different way.

Does that make sense? So, that's why don't jump to start making family with somebody because you just love his body or like her body. Like the way she dresses.

That's not what life is about. Is it true? Yes. And so, God is a family-minded God. Let's all say that together. God is a family-minded God.

One more time, please. God is a family-minded God. Brothers and sisters, let us speak out and possibly use our votes. Anything that not marginalizes family is destroying our community and our society.

[19 : 31] Some people can clap. No! Don't let us break down family. Don't let us be quick to take the children from their parents. To take...

I'm not saying that we shouldn't do what protects people and helps and keeps people safety at heart. But I'm saying that let us be careful we don't break families.

Let us be careful we don't replace anything... We don't replace family values with some socialist ideologies. Because it will come back to bite us.

It's like shooting ourselves in the feet. But the sad thing to note is that many of the people in certain levels of certain class of society their families are intact.

Yeah, yeah, yeah. We have to thank God for our queen. Yeah! Married to only one man for all... It's...

[20 : 35] It's a good example. With all the riches she's got stayed with only one man. married to only one what man?

She is a she. So married to only one man. And by God's grace have given us children who we call our princesses and our princesses. And look at William.

He's married. I pray they stay. Hallelujah. I'm saying something very serious. Our society and our community and our modern day world has begun marginalizing the family values.

What we saw on our streets in London recent last year in the London riots is a reflection of broken down homes. It's a reflection of situations that have gone out of control at home.

Because charity begins where? At home. But it shows up in town. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Say hallelujah. Hallelujah. That's why we celebrate Debbie Dedication.

[21 : 38] We celebrate families coming together. These things are important. We will stand by you to make your marriage work. We will stand by you to make your family work.

Your boys need you to be together. Your girls need you to be together. It's nice. Say mom, dad, let's go. It's nice. Sometimes situations don't always turn out like that.

As you grow in life you realize that. some people are dangerous. But what I'm trying to say is we have to fight as much as we can to make sure the family unit is upheld.

Because it's very important. When you do that it gives better position for the society to move on. So as I said in the scriptures in Romans chapter 12 verse 9 it said love.

So you realize that one aspect of the church life is towards others. Verse 9 talks about how let love be without hypocrisy. Hate what is evil.

[22 : 45] Think what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love. In honor preferring in honor giving preference to one another.

In honor. You see that's church for you. have you noticed how I've been in several conferences where church service may close or the conference may close and cars are driving out or and then someone is just crossing you and people are even struggling.

People are coming for church and they are fighting over a car back. Bible says in honor preferring others. That one is not part of this I break through gospel at all.

Why should I prefer someone? You fight with someone for a seat. Why have you come to sit on my seat? This is my seat because they've written my name on it. This is my seat. In honor doing what? Giving preference to one another. In Philippians chapter 2 verse 3 it says something similar.

Philippians chapter 2 verse 3 it says something similar.

[23 : 52] Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. That is the church life.

So the way we relate to people why would you be a Christian in a church and a Christian in Christ and you are fighting with another Christian? Pastor why don't you talk to the other pastor because he's still my member.

Did you die for that member? But that's why the member went do people go to there let's go to church no they don't go to it's like since we're going to Tesco and saying that you are stealing our customers check what you are offering to those customers and pastors are fighting pastors nowadays it's increasing especially the small boy pastors because they are thinking about their future their breakthrough is in their members and if you can steal some members they will be okay if there's anything like stealing but if you steal that big tight player they will fight anything they have to come back to church and then they will send church leaders to go and say we are missing you in church you have to come back to church don't let them steal you it's not because they care about you it's that they are thinking about I heard this story about a certain father he had this beautiful car and one day he was polishing the car the way when you have a nice car he was polishing the car nice car fresh car polishing it when he realized his little boy has gone to scribble something on the car out of this frustration he started hitting the boy and treated him in a way and I think something hit him and then the guy's fingers got affected so they took him to the hospital and the boy lost his fingers so at the hospital dad was sitting by his boy and then the boy when he came to conscience he said dad so when are my fingers going to grow back it hurt the dad he couldn't handle it out of his frustration he hurt his boy so he went home the boy was sitting by his car just to go and see the mark only to realize the little boy has written

I love my dad on the car he was finding a way to express his love for his dad but his dad said no Mike I didn't know that was an expression of love and the story was that he said that don't we have to use people to love things or we have to use things and love people and not use people to love things it's very easy to be distracted by what things we love though they are necessary some of us love our job not your wife can even come between you and your job hey my wife is in hospital let her go later I'm going to work we'll come back later the children are crying and you say the child is not well and so I have a meeting with my mechanic they are going to put some gadgets in my car I love it you leave your family for your car I know some people it's not too common in UK among certain group of people because most people can't afford to buy three cars one is the garage that drives only on Sunday but in Africa some people buy cars and their wives can't even sit in that one some people are here like that you bought that television your wife can't even touch the remote control she made a mistake one day she touched it just to check what is the whole house turned into fire but we have to use things and love people so it's towards others first aspect of the church love is towards others say towards others towards other believers in particular Christians brothers and sisters let's be sympathetic towards one another someone will step on your toe yes but let's be sympathetic that's the

[28 : 19] Christian gospel the church life it's very important so say towards others and the second one is towards God in the verse 11 look at verse 11 in verse 11 of Romans chapter 12 it said not lagging in diligence fervent in spirit serving God let's all say that together fervent in spirit serving God one more time fervent in spirit serving God I wanted you to say I wanted to notice those who are not serving God fervently let's say it again let me check let's say fervent in spirit serving God fervent in spirit boiling in the spirit keep your spiritual temperature up it's the Christian life you can't live a Christian when people say I can't be bothered they serve the God and there are people who are in church but they don't do anything and you are growing you don't do anything when you are absent no one notices your absence you can go for three weeks but there are some people they are so useful if they miss once everybody will be looking for them that tells the value if if your absence in the community of believers is not noticed I think it's a problem you are not fervent in spirit enough we must belong because when you are when you belong to a house and you are not there people must know they must notice that you are not there or it's 3 p.m.

and you are still not you've not come out of your room people must notice that you've not come out of your room fervent in spirit in other words in our Christian work it is incumbent on us to do anything that lies within our power to charge ourselves find your flame find your passion for God find your passion for God find your passion for God it pays to be passionate about God and there's no one find your passion for God find your passion for God God that's David I hear people say that as for the it's God knows my heart it's just in the heart so it doesn't matter one day I know I will do something or one day I know I will serve God more one day I know I will be regular one day I know you know please today is the tomorrow you were talking about yesterday today is the day find your passion for God so he said fervent in spirit is the church life watch this that means that we have been called to love one another we have been called to love

God and be on fire for God when you are on fire for God demons find it difficult to harass and molest you I don't believe in that thing where people would tell someone and tell you it's someone behind your suffering if you are Christian and someone can comfortably be behind your suffering spiritually then you have to question your Christian life you are always running to one prophet from one prophet to the other looking for someone who will deliver you from these people who are on your case from your hometown go to your hometown tell them look for them tell them I love you in the name of Jesus and if you want to meet me meet me in the spirit I will deal with you yes some power past power that's the Christian life when you are fervent in God no demon can take you it's you yourself how can a Christian be afraid of demons think about it afraid of demons how you don't understand where you are you don't understand your placement in God

Bible says that we are seated in heavenly places far above principalities and powers Ephesians chapter 1 verse 20 that was he lifted him far above principalities Ephesians chapter 2 verse 6 said we are seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus we are seated with Christ Jesus so if Jesus is far above principalities and powers verse 19 and 20 far above principalities and powers and in verse 2 chapter 2 verse 6 of Ephesians said that we are seated together with Christ Jesus in heaven then we are far above principalities and powers it says that for we wrestle not against flesh and blood put on the whole armor of God that you haven't done all things be able to stand the devil

is not a problem witches are the least should be the least of your problem witches are the least of the least of demonic powers so they should be the least of your problem they should see you and run away they should see you instead of you we are afraid of which you are afraid of what but when you are the problem is many people when you are fervent two things first of all who is teaching you it's so important you are as good as your teacher if you are not taught what God's word is saying your spiritual destiny will always be suffering because the devil likes that you must know what the documents are saying find out the terms of your engagement from the scriptures that's one so you must be taught and then two you must be on fire because if you know everything Bible is saying and your spiritual life is on fire you are not you you try and be like the sons of Sceva in the name of Jesus we cast you out we cast you out

Acts chapter 19 verse 11 we cast you out by the Jesus who Paul preaches and he won't say hey Jesus I know I admit that he's powerful Paul I know because he's fervent in the spirit by you who are you you know what I've discovered don't this is a good one don't miss this one listen to this don't be so much so much tense or trying to not to fall into temptation be on fire and you fall into temptation you want to avoid falling into temptation stop trying to stop falling into temptation because most of the time it's not successful you haven't noticed that keep your fire burning that's why you have to be in church be in prayer meetings be in bible studies be find yourself in the place where your fire can be activated it's easier when you are on fire to deal with all the cold stuff but if your anointing if your oil has congealed or coagulated so you need some holy ghost heat you have to fan into flame second Timothy chapter 1 verse 6 it says stay up stay up stay up the gift you have to do the staring not the holy ghost fan into flame your fire fan it up fan it stir it up stir it up stir it up stir it up sister don't just look at me like that but stir your fire hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah so your love towards God is towards God number 3 is towards ourselves towards yourself that's why

[36 : 05] I took time to teach on identity in Christ your attitude the way you know understand who you are your attitude towards yourself and he said don't be lazy laziness spoils a lot of potentials and opportunities how many of us have discovered that by now some haven't discovered don't worry as you grow you'll find out laziness spoils a lot of potentials that's in verse 12 but I don't want to elaborate on that because of time and then verse in the verse 14 17 to 21 talks about towards the persecutors and our enemies when you are a Christian the church life it shows you how to live your life towards your enemies bless verse 14 says bless those who persecute you bless and do not care did you see that Romans 12 14 bless those who persecute you bless and do not care verse 17 verse 17 says that repay no one evil for evil have regard for good things in the sight of all men if it is possible as much as it depends on you live peaceable peaceable with all men live peaceable with all men beloved do not avenge yourselves but rather give place to wrath for it is written vengeance is mine

I will repay says the Lord alright therefore if your enemy is hungry what should you do hide the food Christian life church life therefore if your enemy is hungry feed him if he's thirsty give if you know he's thirsty okay it's different he's not thirsty and you're trying to go and give him water and things like that that's different if you know someone is genuinely in need and is in your power to help don't say this one is not I don't I don't like him so I won't help him do it that's Christianity that's the church life feed him give him to drink for in so doing what happens whether you are heaping coals of fire on his head can you imagine someone has been gossiping about you has fought you and one day it's raining so bad all the buses are not working properly and it's in a hurry to go somewhere you are driving your nice car and you give the person a ride they will be sitting in their car but feel very uncomfortable and you are just cool you are loving them so do good to those who hate you that's Christian message and then I like the verse 21 so much let's all read the verse 21 together I want you to read it out loud let's go but overcome evil let's again please loud can we have the ladies read it louder please let's go man okay all of us together do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good how do you overcome evil how do you overcome evil how do you overcome evil someone is doing you evil don't do evil back overcome evil with good who says who says no people have to take themselves no Bible says are you a believer that's what the word God says oh but I don't believe in the word of God at this point that's where you miss God do not overcome do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good and then finally towards in general before all men your attitude the aspect it relates to all men the verse 17 let's look at verse 17 again in the verse 17 of Romans chapter 12 repay no evil for evil have regard for good

things in the sight of how many people in the sight of all men and as you do that I see God blessing you when you do that you give credibility to your dancing in church you give credibility to your praying and fasting and everything begins to fall in perspective because then you engage heaven because you are living the church life and God is committed to the church not to anybody all things work together for good to those who love the Romans chapter 8 verse 28 all things work together for good to those who are called of the love

God and are called according to his purpose so your love for him first and then his purpose not our purpose I speak a blessing of our life I speak that God will empower you the grace of God will be strong on us to live the Christian life in all its aspects in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ every weakness in our body the Bible says that my strength is made perfect in weakness we tap into the grace of God that gives us strength that makes God strong where we know we are weak in the name of Jesus just begin to pray God strengthen me to walk with you just pray that prayer right now lift up your right hand God strengthen me strengthen me that I will be able to do things the way you want me to do and I'll be able to live to please you I'll be able to glorify you thank you for listening for more resources please visit charis.org or call us on 0207 740 9960

[42 : 07] God bless you