

ARE YOU AN OWNER OR A RENTER?

A friend of mine opened my eyes to a new understanding of being the Church.

He asked me, "Have you ever rented a car?" Sure I have; lots of times when I travel.

"O.K.", he said, "do you ever rotate the tires of the car you rent?" Never. "Have you ever washed the car?" Not once.

"Have you ever changed the oil?" I've never given it a thought.

"But have you done any of those things with the car that is sitting in your garage?" Sure I have; many times.

"Why?" Because one I'm just using, but the other I have an investment in.

My friend wasn't done with me yet. "Does your church have mostly 'renters' or 'owners'?" I looked at him real hard. I was trying to make the connection. He saw the blank look in my eyes.

"You know, do you mostly have people who use the church for their convenience, or do you have mostly people who are committed to the church?" Tough question to ask; harder question to answer.

Are you a renter or an owner?

A renter goes to church (when convenient); an owner is the church always.

A renter worships (occasionally) on Sunday morning; an owner worships every day.

A renter has ministry done to them; an owner does ministry for others.

A renter quits when they get tired; an owner never gives up.

A renter complains when things aren't going their way; an owner prays to have God change their heart.

A renter (occasionally) gives their money; an owner gives their life.

These are just a few things that, in my opinion, separate renters from owners. And truthfully I don't know if we have renters (I'm sure we do) or if we are mostly owners (I pray we are).

The point is God is inviting us, through Jesus, to be owners; to own the faith that He gives us, to own the cross we are to carry, and to own the ministry we have been made to do.

This month, as we unfold the scope of 'Building Up, Reaching Out', I am asking that owners step up in their commitment to God's ministry at Christ Lutheran Church and invite renters to exchange their short-term lease to a long-term mortgage. It will make all the difference.

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