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Knowing Your Part

The story is told of a junior high school music teacher who had just organized a band in her school. The principal was so proud of the music teacher's efforts that he decided, without consulting the music teacher, that the band should hold a concert for the entire school. The music teacher protested, citing the inexperience of her pupils, but the principal insisted that the performance be held nonetheless. The day of the concert arrived, and just before the performance began the music teacher told her nervous students, "If you're not sure of your part, just pretend to play." With that, she stepped back, raised her baton, and brought it down with emphasis — and the band responded with absolute silence!

Far too often, members of local churches are like those young band students — they don't know their parts, so they just pretend. But in many (if not most) cases, youth and inexperience have little to do with the inactivity. Despite years as members of the body of Christ, some

have never learned their roles or considered their importance to the functioning of a local church. Consider the following suggestions:

1. **Learn Your Part:** Humbly evaluate your talents and seek out ways to use them serving the Lord (Matthew 25). Also, identify areas in which you want to grow and work on those things.
2. **Understand the Importance:** Paul repeatedly described the church as a body (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12), emphasizing the interdependence of each functioning part. Don't forget that your fellow Christians are depending on you to do your part.
3. **Encourage Others:** Understand their abilities and their importance just as you do your own. Help them to realize and utilize their talents for the benefit of all.

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