

SERIES: Marks of a Healthy Church
“Mark #7- A Biblical Understanding of Church Membership”
1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27

What is Membership?

According to the Bible, church membership is a commitment every Christian should make to attend, love, serve, and submit to a **local** church.

The Church is...

- A family with many children.
- A temple with many **bricks**.
- A flock with many **sheep**.
- A vine with many branches.
- A body with many **members**.

Where is it in the Bible?

- Membership in a local church is not biblically **commanded**.
- Membership in a local church is biblically **implied**.
 - Membership is implied by church **gatherings**. (Acts 2:41-47)
 - The church is both universal and local. (Matt. 16:16-19; 18:17-19)
 - The local church is a **visible** expression of the universal body of Christ.
 - Membership is implied by church **discipline**. (Matt. 18:15-20)
 - Excommunication of members.
 - In order to be put **out** of the church, you must first be **in** the church. (1 Cor. 5:12-13)
 - Membership is implied by church **leadership**. (Heb. 13:7)
 - Membership is implied by church **accountability**.
 - We **love** one another. (1 Peter 2:17)
 - We encourage one another. (1 Thess. 5:11; Heb. 10:24-25)
 - We **guard** one another. (Heb. 12:15-16; 1 Cor. 5:1-5)
 - We obey our leaders. (Heb. 13:17)

Why is it important?

Biblical church membership is important because the church presents God's witness to himself in the world. It displays his glory. In the church's membership, then, non-Christians should see in the lives of God's changed people that God is holy and gracious and that his gospel is powerful for saving and transforming sinners.

Why Join a Church?

- To assure ourselves.
- To **evangelize** the world.
- To expose false gospels.
- To **edify** the church.
- To **glorify** God.

“Healthy church membership means finding joy in being last, instead of seeking your way and being first.”

-- Thom Rainer

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