

WHY

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

1. CHANGE IN IDENTITY

a. Disciple

John 8:31 ¶ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,

b. Temple

1Cor. 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

c. Flock

1Pet. 5:2-3 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

d. Family

1Tim. 3:15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

e. Body

Rom. 12:4-5 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

2. CHANGE IN AUTHORITY

a. Shepherds

Heb. 13:17 ¶ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

b. Body/Family members

Gal. 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

1Th. 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

a. Shepherds to God

Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

1Pet. 5:2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

2. CHANGE IN FOCUS

a. Self vs. Kingdom

Matt. 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God

b. Others first

Phil. 2:3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Phil. 2:4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

3. CHANGE IN POWER

a. Supernatural growth

Eph. 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

Eph. 4:12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Eph. 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph. 4:14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Eph. 4:15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

Eph. 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

a. Encouragement

Heb. 10:24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

Heb. 10:25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

b. Prayer

Heb. 10:24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

Heb. 10:25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.