

First Baptist Church – Odessa

Pastor Byron McWilliams

Date: _____

“God’s Gift of Church Membership”

“iChurch – Doing Church Intentionally – Pt. 4

Ephesians 4:11-16 & Selected

A healthy New Testament church is intentional about membership and values it highly.

I. Membership in a local church is a gift from God!

“And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-12

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church....” 1 Corinthians 12:27-28a

II. Membership in a local church is expected by God!

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” Ephesians 5:25

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and 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.” Acts 20:28

“God sets the lonely in families.” Psalm 68:6 NIV

III. Membership in a local church comes with privileges.

As a Healthy Church Member, I have the Privilege to...

1) Die Daily

"And He said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'" Luke 9:23

2) Love Fully

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

3) Attend Regularly

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 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." Hebrews 10:24-25

4) Promote Unity

"...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God." Ephesians 4:13

5) Admonish Peaceably

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

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom." Colossians 3:16a

6) Give Abundantly

"Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine." Proverbs 3:9-10

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

7) Serve Joyfully

"...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." Ephesians 4:16