

Membership Matters

10/5/2014

Israel was to have a clear distinction between _____ and _____.
Getting the concept of church membership right is a key step of _____ in every believer's life and in bringing _____ to God.

The Principles

1. **Jesus established the _____ to be a public, earthly institution that would mark out, affirm, and _____ those who profess to believe in Him.**

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter had rightly declared the '_____' (the kingdom of heaven) and the '_____' (Jesus is the Christ).

The church identifies those who _____ the key spiritual question of _____ is the King of the kingdom of heaven.

The authority of the keys is the authority to _____ a person's gospel words and deeds and to render a _____.

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus wants the world to know who _____ to Him and who doesn't.

Membership is the church's affirmation of the _____ of someone's profession of faith.

Membership should serve as an _____ to believers of the genuineness of their faith.

2. **Scripture repeatedly commands Christians to be _____ to their leaders.**

1 Peter 5:1-5

God _____ you if you aren't subject to others.

Subject =

Every model of biblical subjection is a picture of _____.
Becoming a member is equivalent to signing away your _____.
Once you associate with _____, you must associate with His _____, too.
Joining the church helps to counter our wrong _____ and helps us realize the _____ nature of Christianity.

Hebrews 13:17

There's no way you can _____ the biblical commands to be subject to your leaders if you never actually submit to them by _____ a local church.

God _____ you if you aren't subject to others.

The Principles in Practice

Examples of the principles of membership put into practice in the early church:

[Acts 5:12-13](#)

[1 Corinthians 5:1-13](#)

[2 Corinthians 2:5-7](#)

[1 Timothy 5:9-12](#)

Membership in Summary

Who gets in to membership in the church? Answer: _____!

The first step of the Christian life in the New Testament is _____.
Jesus means for His saved individuals to publicly _____ with Him and with His people.

The goal in our membership requirements is to help us affirm _____.