



WE THE CHURCH

LIBERTI

WHAT IS A
CHURCH MEMBER?

A Confessor & Participator



MATT 16/18
1 CORINTHIANS 12



HEBREWS 13:17 ESV

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.



“Church membership is about a church taking specific responsibility for a Christian, and a Christian for a church.”

JONATHAN LEEMAN



A RIGHT CONFESSOR

MATTHEW 16:13-19 ESV

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”



A RIGHT CONFESSOR

MATTHEW 16:13-19 ESV

¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

WE THE CHURCH



A RIGHT CONFESSOR

ROMANS 10:9-10 ESV

⁹ If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.



A REGULAR PARTICIPATOR

1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-26 ESV

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?

WE THE CHURCH



A REGULAR PARTICIPATOR

1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-26 ESV

¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honourable we bestow the greater honour, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require.

WE THE CHURCH



A REGULAR PARTICIPATOR

1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-26 ESV

But God has so composed the body, giving greater honour to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together.



“Each of these word pictures, so vital to our understanding of the church, demand more than a casual commitment from the individual. There are no randomly connected stones in a building. They are cemented together unambiguously.”



“Sheep do not hop from flock to flock; rather, the shepherd knows exactly how many sheep he has in his care. Body parts do not relate to each other informally; they are intricately connected to each other and are mutually dependent.”

SAM STORMS



“If the church is central to God’s purpose as seen in both history and the gospel, it must surely also be central to our lives. How can we take lightly what God takes so seriously?”

JOHN STOTT



"None are so hurtful as onlookers. Whether or not we take a public part in things is immaterial; we must always be giving life, so that our absence is felt. We cannot say, "I don't count." We dare not attend meetings merely as passengers while others do the work. We are his Body and members in particular, and it is when all the members fulfill their ministry that the life flows."

WATCHMAN NEE



FOUR COVENANT PROMISES

- 1. To come under biblical authority**
- 2. To cultivate unity and holiness**
- 3. To community and the sacraments**
- 4. To contribute toward the mission**



“If I had never joined a church till I had found one that was perfect, I should never have joined one at all; and the moment I did join it, if I had found one, I should have spoiled it, for it would not have been a perfect church after I had become a member of it. Still, imperfect as it is, it is the dearest place on earth to us.”

CHARLES SPURGEON