

Module 1: I Am A Church Member

Instructor

KATHERINE MURPHY

Phone

734-657-8156

Email

Murkatkm@me.com



Overview of Class

What does it mean to be a church member? Is it about our wants and preferences, what the church can do for us, or is it about what God expects us to do for Him and His church? This class explores what Scripture has to say about our role as church members. The author, Thom S. Rainer, using a Biblical foundation, shows how each member is important to the well being of the church as a whole. As members we should come together in unity, prayer, unselfish devotion, and love; lifting one another in service to our church.

Course Structure

This is a four week course. There will be lecture with visuals, group discussion and participation, as well as assigned reading. If you miss one of the sessions, you must coordinate with your instructors to reschedule.

Required Text

- Bible
- Book: I Am A Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference

Week 1: Introduction to Module 1

Chapter 1: I Will Be A Functioning Church Member

Our spiritual gifts are to be used for the ministry of the church. Everyone has a specific role in the care, maintenance, and growth of the church.

Week 2: Chapter 2: I Will Be A Unifying Church Member

Chapter 3: I Will Not Let the Church Be About My Preferences And Desires

How do we create unity? Most of us want to have things our own way, regardless of whether it is right or wrong. Rightness being a relative thing in the mind of the doer. God's plan is for Christians get along with one another. Chapter 3 reminds as that service comes from yielding our own desires to the wishes of others.

Week 3: Chapter 4: I Will Pray For My Church Leaders

Pastors and other church leaders have many responsibilities. They are called upon to minister to us both spiritually and Emotionally. They are expected to be there for us no matter the time or circumstances, even at the expense of their own needs and family. They need our prayers.

Week 4: Chapter 5: I Will Lead My Family To Be Healthy Church Member **Chapter 6: My Membership Is A Gift**

Church should be a family affair. How can we be on one accord in church and not within our own family? Church membership is the gift that keeps on giving as we learn to serve, give, and love through the church.

Notes

- I. What is the difference between having a Country Club attitude concerning church membership, and a Biblical attitude about church membership?

- II. Different but working together. How does that apply to members of the church?

- II. III. Church Membership is functioning Membership.

Chapter One Questions

Session 1: "I Will Be A Functioning Church Member"

1. What does it mean to be a member of a church? How is it different from being a member of a civic organization or the country club?

2. Explain why church membership is a biblical concept using 1 Corinthians 12 as your Biblical foundation.

3. How is the "Love chapter", 1Corinthians 13, related to church membership? Explain using all 13 verses of the chapter.



4. How are the different parts of the body (ear, nose, mouth, hand, foot, eyes, etc.) related to church membership?

5. In relationship to church membership, why is it important for members to know and use their spiritual gifts? Relate your answer to 1 Corinthians 12.

Do you know your spiritual gift(s)? _____



Week 2

Chapter 2: I Will Be A Unifying Church Member

Chapter 3: I Will Not Let the Church Be About My Preferences
And Desires

Notes

John 13:35 and Ephesians 1:15-16, Ephesians 4:1-3

1. According to these Scriptures, how are Christians to act toward one another? How do these Scriptures impact church membership?

Once, an old man was very ill and lay dying in his bed. He had four sons who were always fighting with each other. He always worried about them and wanted to teach them a lesson and asked his sons to come to him. When they came, the old man gave them a bundle of sticks and said, "Can you break these sticks?"

The first son tried to break the bundle, but nothing happened. He tried very hard and finally gave up. Then it was the turn of the second son to try his luck. He thought it would be an easy task and picked up the sticks easily. He tried his best to break the sticks, but nothing happened. Then, the third son tried to break the bundle of sticks, but he couldn't do anything either.

Meanwhile, the youngest son jeered at his brothers and thought they were very incompetent. He thought he was very clever and took one stick at a time and easily broke all of them.

The old father then smiled at his sons and said, "Children, do you understand what happened? It is always easy to break the sticks one by one. But when they are bundled together, none of you could break them. In the same way, you four brothers should always be together. No one will be able to hurt you then." The four brothers realized what their father was trying to teach them and forgot all their enmity and learnt that unity is strength. (Shortstoriesshort.com)

2. Gossip: How do you define it and how/why is it disruptive to unity?

Definition: _____

Reasons why we gossip:

Response to gossip

3. Forgiveness and unity, how do they work together?



Questions for Study: Chapter 2

1. What did Paul mean when he said in Colossians 3:14 that love is the perfect bond of unity? What does that mean for the local church today?

2. What is the best path to take if someone brings gossip to you in your church? What does the Bible say about gossip?

3. How is forgiveness related to unity in the local church? What does the Bible say about forgiving one another?

4. Look at Matthew 6:14–15. Relate those words to being a church member. What does it mean if one church member does not forgive another?

5. Read all of 1 Corinthians 13. Paul wrote the “love chapter” to the church at Corinth where problems with unity were pervasive. What does this chapter mean for church members today? Explain as you go through each verse.

Notes: Chapter 3

1. How does Mark 9:35 tie in with the title of this chapter?

35 Sitting down, he called the Twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be last and servant of all." Mark 9:35 (CSB)

2. Servant, what exactly does that mean?

3. The I, Me, Myself approach to church membership.

4. The Mind of Christ: Philippians 2:5-11

Questions for Study: Chapter 3

1. Show from key Bible verses the difference between church membership and country club membership from the perspective of personal preferences and desires. Of course, the Bible does not speak of country club membership, so you will need to assume the benefits of belonging to one.
2. Find and explain key passages in the Bible that talk about Christians being like servants. How would you describe a servant as it applies to being a member of a church?
3. Why do many churches have “worship wars”? What does that have to do with the right or wrong attitude about church membership?
4. Describe someone in your church that best fits the description of having the mind of Christ and a servant attitude. Find key New Testament passages that would fit him or her.
5. Go verse by verse through Philippians 2:5-11. Explain how the attitude of Christ in each verse becomes a pattern for us as church members.

Week 3: Chapter 4 - I Will Pray for My Church Leaders

Notes

1. The chapter starts with a story about Pastor Mike (pages 43-46). How many different “hats” does Pastor Mike wear between preparing for his sermon that morning, and nine o’ clock that night when he finally returns home?

Other duties?

2. “You Might Be a Preacher If” (Stan Toler and Mark Hollingsworth)The Perils of Being a Pastor or Church Leader.

Sermons: _____

Family obligations: _____

Living up to 1 Timothy 3:1-7 _____

3. Why we should pray for our Pastor/Leaders

The Devil's Traps: _____

4. Physical and Mental Health

Notes



Questions for Study: Chapter 4

1. Using Scriptural backing, explain why the pastor's family is such an important factor in his ministry. _____

2. What is meant by "above reproach" in 1 Timothy 3: 2? Is that standard even possible for the pastor? _____

3. Explain the implications of the devil's trap in 1 Timothy 3: 7.

4. What is the meaning of "outsiders" in 1 Timothy 3: 7? Why should they be a concern to church members or pastors?

5. Find some key passages in the Bible where intercessory prayer takes place (someone praying for someone else). Relate those passages to praying for your pastor. _____

**Week 4: Chapter 5: I Will Lead My Family to Be Healthy Church Members
Chapter 6: I Will Treasure Church Membership As a Gift**

Notes: Chapter 5

Every sailor could agree on one fact. Had it not been for the captain, they never would have survived. The storm came suddenly, and in a matter of moments hulls were broken, decks were awash, and sailors were floundering. But as quickly as the storm arose, so came the captain, maneuvering his large vessel between the waves and rescuing one sailor after another. Before they knew it, they were deposited safely on an island, listening to the instructions of the captain, who said, "There are more still at sea. You stay here until I return. Build a tall fire using the trees of the island to keep yourselves warm and to send a beacon for those who need safety." Of course, the sailors were happy and quick to oblige, and they set about the task of building a large fire. Then they waited and waited and waited.

The longer they waited the more their gratitude passed. Their thankfulness turned into restlessness, and appreciation for the captain mutated into aggravation with each other. No one could remember exactly when the argument started, but it had something to do with the captain's instructions. Did he say to use only trees for the fire or mostly trees for the fire? As they began to discuss it, they couldn't agree. Some said, "Surely he meant trees only. He said build a fire made out of trees." Others said, "A little brush and some grass and leaves won't hurt. He'll understand. Mostly trees won't hurt." Conversation led to opinion, and opinion led to discussion. Discussion led to dispute, and dispute led to debate. Soon debate led to division, and there were two fires on the island. There was the trees-only fire and the trees-mostly fire.

Peace returned to the island for a short time, until dispute broke out in the trees-only camp. ...

What does this story have to do Church membership?

1. Loving the Church in spite of.... _____



1. How does the biblical teaching of the log and the speck in Matthew 7 apply to church membership?

2. What is the relationship of our immediate families and the church family? What biblical texts make this connection?

3. What is the role of a believing spouse to an unbelieving spouse? How does that manifest itself in church membership?

4. Why is unconditional love such a challenge, especially as it applies to church membership?



5. How is Christ's death on the cross an example for us as church members relating to one another?

Notes

