

Reflecting on Church Membership – Part 2

Study and Discussion Questions | July 17, 2022

1. **Read Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1-2 and Hebrews 3:12-14.** In this week's study, we seek to establish that there is no community without commitment, including mutual accountability. What makes this kind of commitment so vital to a vibrant church community?

2. Consider the following categories of "one another" passages from the New Testament.

- **Love and bear with one another**
(John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; 1 Peter 3:8; Ephesians 4:2, 32; Hebrews 10:24; James 4:11; Colossians 3:9; Galatians 5:26; 1 Thessalonians 5:15)
- **Encourage one another** (1 Thessalonians 5:11, 15; Colossians 3:16; Romans 15:14; James 5:16; 1 Peter 4:9)

Question continues on the next page.

- **Show humility to and seek unity with one another** (Ephesians 4:2; 5:21; 1 Peter 3:8; 5:5; Galatians 5:13; James 5:16)

Which of these categories describes what you desire most from brothers and sisters in Christ? Which of these commands is most difficult for you to obey?

3. Based on the Bible verses we've already considered in this study, how well do you think our Church Covenant reflects the level of commitment God intends for believers to have toward one another?

Put a check next to the statement that most closely aligns with your opinion. Be prepared to explain your answer.

Question continues on the next page.

_____ I think our Church Covenant expects ***too much*** of brothers and sisters in Christ.

_____ I think our Church Covenant expects ***too little*** of brothers and sisters in Christ.

_____ I think our Church Covenant expects ***a realistic level*** of commitment between brothers and sisters in Christ.

4. Continuing your discussion from the previous question, what are some practical ways we can live out our church covenant in our church community?

5. Based on all that Scripture says about our need for community, and given that there is no community without commitment, what obstacles might still prevent someone from making the formal commitment of church membership? How would you encourage someone to overcome these obstacles?