

What is the Church?

Baptism, Communion, Membership, Discipleship



Membership

Ephesians 2:11-18

5/3/2026

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

There is _____ between groups of people that are not alike. (*Exodus 19:6, Deuteronomy 14:2, Luke 18:11*)

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

- God's purpose, in the church, is to create one new _____. (*Acts 10:34-35*)
- Those who are in Christ, those in the church, now have a completely restructured way of developing an _____.
- Both those "far" and "near" are _____ from God and need the gospel of _____.

What the gospel of Jesus Christ does to you:

- a) The gospel _____ you out of that kind of pride.
- b) The gospel _____ the layers in your "identity deck." (*Galatians 2:14*)

HOW DOES GOD BRING IT ABOUT?

God _____ the hostility. (*2 Cor. 5:21, Hebrews 2:11*)

DEFINING MEMBERSHIP

- The church is not a _____, nor a service provider.
- A church begins not with common interest, but with a common Savior - _____, seeking citizens and children.
- A church is like an _____.
- Membership helps us know which other Christians, and which leaders we're _____ to.
- Membership is a _____ in Christian discipleship.
- Membership shows off the gospel's _____ to unite.

You can listen to today's message at MissionTrailsChurch.com or on the **MTC App**.

Ephesians 2:11-18

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)— ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

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One Anothers

1. *John 13:34-35* – **Love** one another
2. *John 15:12, 17* – **Love** each other **as Christ** loved you
3. *Romans 1:12* – **Be mutually encouraged** by one another's faith
4. *Romans 12:5* – **Belong** to one another
5. *Romans 12:10* – **Be devoted** to one another; **honor** one another
6. *Romans 12:16* – **Live in harmony** with one another
7. *Romans 13:8* – **Love** one another
8. *Romans 14:13* – **Stop passing judgment** on one another
9. *Romans 14:19* – Do what leads to **peace**
10. *Romans 15:5* – Have the **same attitude** toward one another **as Christ**
11. *Romans 15:7* – **Accept** one another
12. *Romans 15:14* – **Instruct** one another
13. *Romans 15:27* – **Share your stuff** with one another
14. *Romans 16:16* – **Greet** one another **with warmth and love**
15. *1 Cor. 7:5* – (husbands/wives) **don't deprive** each other **sexually**
16. *1 Corinthians 9:11* – **Share** with one another (especially leaders)
17. *1 Corinthians 11:33* – **Eat** together
18. *1 Corinthians 12:25* – **Have equal concern** for one another
19. *Galatians 5:13* – **Serve** one another **humbly** in love
20. *Galatians 5:15* – **Don't bite & devour** one another
21. *Galatians 5:26* – **Don't be conceited, provoke** or **envy** one another
22. *Galatians 6:2* – **Carry** each other's **burdens**
23. *Galatians 6:6* – **Share what's good** with your teachers
24. *Ephesians 4:2* – Be **humble, gentle, patient & bear with** one another
25. *Ephesians 4:25* – **Speak truthfully** to your neighbor
26. *Eph. 4:32* – Be **kind, compassionate & forgiving** to one another
27. *Ephesians 5:21* – **Submit** to one another
28. *Philippians 2:3* – Put the **interests of others above your own**
29. *Colossians 3:9* – **Don't lie** to one another
30. *Colossians 3:13* – **Bear with** and **forgive** one another
31. *1 Thessalonians 3:12* – **Let love increase** & overflow for one another
32. *1 Thessalonians 4:9* – **Learn from God** how to love one another
33. *1 Thessalonians 4:18* – **Encourage** one another
34. *1 Thessalonians 5:11* – **Encourage** and **build up** one another
35. *1 Thessalonians 5:15* – **Do what is good** for one another
36. *2 Thessalonians 1:3* – **Thank God for one another** & increase in love
37. *Hebrews 10:24* – **Consider how to spur** one another on to love/deeds
38. *Heb. 10:25* – **Don't give up meeting** together; **encourage** one another
39. *James 4:11* – **Do not slander** one another
40. *James 5:9* – **Do not grumble** against one another
41. *James 5:16* – **Confess** to one another and **pray for** one another
42. *1 Peter 1:22* – **Love** one another **deeply**, from the heart
43. *1 Peter 4:9* – **Offer hospitality** to one another **without grumbling**
44. *1 Peter 5:5* – **Submit to elders** and **act humbly** toward one another
45. *1 John 3:11* – **Love** one another

MTC Membership Covenant

Pre-requisites for Membership:

- I have **trusted Jesus** Christ as my Lord and Savior & have **been baptized** since that time.
- I am in agreement with Mission Trails Church's **statements, strategy, and structure** (as detailed in the Membership Class and Handbook).
- I have completed the Membership Discovery **Class**.
- In good conscience, I can agree to and submit to the **Statement of Faith**.
- **I believe that God wants me to unite** with the Mission Trails Church family as a partnering Member.

By committing to Church Membership, I commit myself to God and to the other members to:

1. **DEVOTE** myself to Jesus Christ and his church, living each day as his disciple, and prioritizing corporate worship with the Mission Trails Church Family.
2. Protect the **UNITY** of my church through prayer, and by not promoting division and gossip.
3. Share the responsibility of my church, encouraging its **HEALTH** and **GROWTH**.
 - A commitment to **Community Group** participation (whenever possible).
 - A commitment to serving others at Mission Trails Church through **Ministry Teams** and **personal ministry**.
 - A commitment to **working toward tithing** (10%) **giving**.
4. Support the **TESTIMONY** of my church by living a godly, holy life.
 - A commitment to following Jesus in my public and private life, living according to the commands and principles of the scripture, with appropriate accountable relationships in the church, under its leaders.
 - A commitment to love God, and to love my neighbor.
5. Regularly apply the **HEART ATTITUDES**.
 - The Heart Attitudes include direction for *Personal Peacekeeping*, as well as *Assisted Peacekeeping* (Matthew 18, 1 Cor. 5-6)
6. Prioritize and attend the **MEMBERS MEETINGS** throughout the year (2-3x).

What this means for every member:

1. **Following Jesus** – Personal Growth and Holiness
2. **Growing with others** – Community Groups
3. **Serving others** – Volunteer Teams, Personal Ministry
4. **Giving** – Time, Skill, Finances
5. **Being a champion** – For the gospel, for the church

Five Affirmations

1. Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trusted Him for salvation?
2. Have you been baptized since you committed your life to Christ?
3. Have you completed Mission Trails Church Membership Discovery class?
4. Do you believe God wants you to join with Mission Trails Church in Membership, and are you eager to do so?
5. Do you commit to abide by this Mission Trails Membership Covenant?

2026 Commitment

I commit to live out the 2026 Membership Commitment, knowing that I will need to depend on God's grace through Jesus Christ, seek guidance from the Holy Spirit through God's Word and Prayer, and live in dependent community with brothers and sisters in Christ.