

Membership at HCC

1. Introduction

- Does the Bible specifically command church membership? Yes or No

2. A couple things that church membership is NOT at HCC:

- Not a ticket to **heaven!** (John 14:6)
- Not **acceptance** into the family of God.

3. A few things that church membership IS at HCC:

- Membership shows you gather with a **local** group of believers.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:2 - “I am writing to God’s **church in Corinth...**”
 - Galatians 1:2 - “All the brothers and sisters here join me in sending this letter to the **churches in Galatia.**”
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:1 - “We are writing to the **church in Thessalonica...**”
 - Acts 2:41 - “Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and **added to the church** (in Jerusalem) that day.”
- Membership shows a **commitment** to a specific church family.
 - We are committed to each other.
 - We are committed to **servicing** one another by using our spiritual gifts to benefit others in this church family.
 - **Romans 12:4-13**
 - **Ephesians 4:15-16**
- Membership shows a **like-mindedness** and unity in beliefs with the other members of the church.
- Membership shows our willingness to submit to the organizational structure of the church.
 - God-designed leadership structure within the church.

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- Acts 6, 1 Timothy 3, & Titus 1
- God-designed discipline measures within the church.
 - Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5, & Galatians 6:1
- Members get to vote.

4. **Membership in God's family is the most important membership. Are you certain you're a member of His family?**

- If you were to die today in a car accident, do you know beyond a shadow of a doubt where you'd go?
- If you were to die today and you were standing at the gates of heaven and God asked, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" What would you say?
- If someone asks you, "What must I do to be saved?" What would you tell them?
- **Ephesians 2:1-10**
 - You were **dead** (separated from God) - Ephesians 2:1-3
 - God **raised** us from the dead along with Christ - Ephesians 2:4-7
 - God saved you by his grace when you **believed** - Ephesians 2:8-10
- **Galatians 2:21** - "I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die."