



REFLECT

1. What does it mean to be a member of a local church?
2. What are the advantages of church membership? What might someone be missing out on by not being a member of a local church?

ENCOUNTER

Whether in Africa in AD 300 or China in 1998, or the U.S. today, every believer in Jesus Christ is a member of the body of Christ. Theologians call this invisible reality the “universal church.” You become a part of the universal church at the moment of salvation. The invisible reality of the universal church is made visible in local churches where believers gather together with a special relationship with one another to spur one another in growth. Local church membership sets the parameters for the one anothers.

Jesus said he would build his church in Matthew 16:18. Jesus then explains more about what local church care and confrontation will be like in Matthew 18:15-20. Learn more about our responsibilities to one another by studying those verses.

3. What is the goal of confronting one another about unrepentant sin?
4. What is the process of confronting? Why do you think the circles of confrontation go from smallest to largest?

5. Matthew 18:19 is often applied to the prayers of any gathering Christians. Is that the context of this verse? What is a more accurate understanding of the passage?

TRANSFORM

6. How is your relationship with other members of Soteria different from other believers?
7. What is one way you can show the importance of the local church this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS