

Solid Foundation

Pillars of Christianity

Lesson Five

“Spiritual Commitment”

INTRODUCTION:

Webster defines the word “commitment” as “something which engages someone to do something; a continual obligation; a promise or a pledge.” Just like God requires obedience, He also requires commitment. Commitment can be compared to the transmission in a car. Without it, there will be no progress.

- * The Apostle Paul mentions _____ different types of commitment.

II Corinthians 8:5 (GNB)

First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God’s will, they gave themselves to us as well.

- * **They did two things:**

1. They committed themselves to _____ for _____.

2. They committed themselves to _____ for _____ in the church family.

- * The Christian life involves more than just _____; it also includes _____.

- * We _____ in Christ by being in _____ with other Christians.

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.

C. S. Lewis once wrote an essay on church membership, reminding us that the word “membership” is of Christian origin, but it has been taken over by the world and emptied of all its original meaning. Today, most people associate the term membership with paying dues, meaningless rituals, silly rules and handshakes, and having your name on some dusty roll. Paul, however, had a very different image of membership. To him, being a member of the church did not refer to some cold induction into an institution, but rather it meant becoming a vital organ of a living body. We need to reclaim this image. Any organ that is detached from the body will not only miss what it was created to be, it will also shrivel and die quickly. The same is true for Christians that are uncommitted to any specific congregation.

Romans 12:4-5

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

I Corinthians 12:12, 14

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ . . . Now the body is not made up of one part but many.

* **A Christian without a church family is like:**

- A football player without a _____.
- A soldier without a _____.
- A tuba player without and _____.
- A sheep without a _____.
- A child without a _____.

* A Christian without a church family is an _____.

Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

You are members of God’s very own family . . . and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.

* Membership is an act of _____.

FIVE REASONS EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF A LOCAL CHURCH

1. It _____ a person as a _____ believer.

Ephesians 2:19

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household.

Romans 12:5

So, in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

2. It _____ a spiritual family to _____ and _____ them in their walk with Christ.

Galatians 6:1-2

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you may be tempted.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching.

3. It gives them a place to _____, _____ and _____ their gifts in ministry.

I Corinthians 12:4-6, 27

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. They are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men . . . Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

4. It _____ them under the _____ of Godly leaders.

Hebrews 3:17

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Acts 20:28

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the Church of God, which He bought with His own blood. I know after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.

5. It gives them the _____ they need to _____.

Ephesians 5:21

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

WHEN SHOULD I JOIN THE CHURCH?

Ask yourself these questions:

		Yes	No	Maybe
1.	Do I feel accepted here?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Do I enjoy the services?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Do I believe in the “Vision”?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Do I believe in the leader?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Are there opportunities here for my family to grow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Could I possibly become an asset to this church?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Am I challenged to reach my potential here?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Would I consider inviting others to come here with me?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	Do I sense that God is at work in this church?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- If you answered “yes” to these questions: “What are you waiting on?”
- If you answered “maybe” to these questions: “It won’t be long now!”
- If you answered “no” to these questions: “What are you doing here then?”

HOW DO I JOIN THIS CHURCH?

CONCLUSION:

God’s plan is for every child of God to be a part of a local church family. When Christians understand the meaning and the value of church membership, they become excited and motivated to make the commitment. There’s no doubt about it . . . in God’s family, “Membership definitely has its benefits.”