

## I'm Saved! Now What?

### Join a Local Church

#### Various Texts

*"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* **Matt 11:28-30**

**Main Idea:** Covenant Membership in a Local Church is Vital to Walking with God

### What is Covenant Membership in a Local Church?

- **Covenant**

*"One way to look at it is that a church without a covenant is like a marriage without vows. Both follow necessarily from the nature of the relationships."* **John Piper**

- **Membership**

*"So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."* **Romans 12:5**

- **Local Church**

*"I will build my church (universal), and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* **Matthew 16:18b** (emphasis added)

*"So the churches (local) were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily."* **Acts 16:5** (emphasis added)

### I. Covenant Membership in a Local Church is Good for the Member

*"As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."* **1 Corinthians 12:20-27**

*"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world."* **1 Peter 5:8-9**

### Benefits of Covenant Membership to the Member

- **Accountability in your Faith**
- **Better Understanding of the Bible**
- **Counter-Cultural Opportunities**

*"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."* **Hebrews 10:24-25**

### II. Covenant Membership in a Local Church is Crucial for the Body

#### Church Consumer vs. Covenant Member

*"Then He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'" **Matthew 9:37-38***

### III. Covenant Membership in a Local Church is Key for a Community

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* **John 13:34-35**

### The Community Needs the Church, and the Church Needs Covenant Members

#### Misunderstandings About Covenant Church Membership:

- If I'm not a member, I am not saved.
- There's no point to being a Covenant Member, I can still enjoy all the programs of the church without that process.
- Being a Covenant Member automatically signs me up to do and give things that I may not be ready to do or give.
- Being a Covenant Member means that I agree with everyone in my church on everything they believe.
- I must be a better Christian before becoming a Covenant Member.

#### How do you get Saved?

*"For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."* **Romans 10:10**

#### 1. Believe

#### 2. Confess

## **I'm Saved! Now What?**

- **Get Baptized**
- **Join a Local Church**
- **Start Praying**
- **Get in the Bible**
- **Share the Gospel**

### **Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:**

- *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (2007)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles R. Swindoll (1998)
- *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* – Walter A. Elwell (2001)
- *A Theology for the Church, Revised Edition* – Daniel L. Akin (2014)
- *The New Covenant, and the New Covenant People* – John Piper (1993)
- *5 Biblical Arguments for Church Membership* – Brian Boyles (2022)
- *Why Have a Church Covenant?* – Justin Taylor (2019)
- *6 Reasons Why Membership Matters* – Kevin DeYoung (2015)
- *Does Church Membership Matter?* – J.D. Greear (2019)