

I Believe in Membership

Being a Christian means being joined to a church.

Is Church _____ Biblical?

- 1. _____ into the family.
- 2. Bought as a _____.
- 3. A _____ on the vine.
- 4. A part of the _____.
- 5. A _____ in the flock.
- 6. A _____ to the groom.

How We _____ Members of the Church

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

What is the _____ of Church Membership?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

NOTES: _____

Group Questions

1. How do/would you define church membership?
 - a. Do you think your description would make it appealing to others? Why or why not?
2. Before this message, did you think it was important for Christians to be members of local churches? Why or why not?
 - a. If your opinion changed, why?
3. Give some practical, everyday examples of how you exhort your fellow church members on a regular basis. If you can't think of any, what's one practical way you can begin to help others grow in godliness and not be hardened by sin's deceitfulness?
 - a. How is someone who is not a member of a church especially susceptible to being hardened by sin's deceitfulness?
4. Based on this definition of church membership, what power does a church have? That is, what "teeth" does it have for ensuring that members submit to the church? What consequences can it impose?
 - a. Notice that Paul gives very different instructions about how the Corinthians are to treat those who are inside the church and those who are outside (vv. 9–13). If the Corinthian church didn't practice membership, how could they have known who was "inside" and who was "outside" the church?
5. Imagine a situation in which an elder of a local church is faithfully preaching God's Word, and he confronts a sin in your life that you just don't want to address. How is this situation different for you if you're a member of the church versus a nonmember?
 - a. How would you summarize the relationship between membership and submission to the church's leaders? Can you truly submit to a church's leaders without joining the church?
 - b. Let's look at the question from another angle: Who are church leaders to give an account for? How are church leaders supposed to know who they are to give an account for?
6. According to [Eph 4.11-16](#), who is it who does the work of ministry? How is this different from the way we often think about "ministry" in the church?
 - a. If maturity means that we are all unified in the truth and are able to successfully resist false teaching, what are some practical ways you can help others grow toward that goal?
 - b. What percentage of the body needs to contribute in order for it to grow properly (v. 16)?