

Ebenezer Baptist Church

Bible Study

July 17, 2024

Moving from Membership to Relationship

Our encounter with God is more than a Sunday morning point on our weekly calendar. This God thing is a deep connection that all of us should have with our creator as he continues to provide for us all of the protection and provision that we need to survive in this world. Tonight, we will discuss the difference between being a member of the local church and the need for such and what it means to be in a relationship with God who foundation of all of the protection and provision that we receive.

The three questions that we need for tonight's study are as follows:

1. What is church membership?
2. What does it mean to have a relationship with God?
3. What is the difference between holding a membership in the local church and having a relationship with God daily?

What is church membership?

Church membership is the act of belonging to a church and being committed to its rules, policies and practices.

Note: Having your name on the membership list doesn't mean you have a relationship with God.

As a church member you:

- Reap the benefits of being attached to the local church.
  - A. Free weddings
  - B. Free burials/burial plots “if you’re in the rural church”
  - C. Access to church facility
  - D. Receives communion
  - E. Access to pastoral counsel when needed

What comes to your mind when you consider the idea of church membership?

What does the scripture say about church membership?

1st Corinthians 12:27NIV

- Church membership positions us as members of the body of Christ.
- All of us who are members are apart of the body but it still doesn’t guarantee that we have a relationship with Christ.

Romans 12:4-5NIV

- Each individual person in the church is one but in each one of them are many parts and these parts have different jobs.
- As we gather in the church, we should recognize that each one of us are individuals and we have different parts but because of our connection to Christ church we all become one, we all have different parts but we are one.

2. What does it mean to have a relationship with God?

A. A relationship with God keeps you connected to the source of all strength.  
Revelation 3:20ESV

- Having a relationship with God opens up the door for him to be with us in all of life's journeys.

B. A relationship with God gives us what we need despite who may be against us.  
Psalm 23:1KJV

- Our relationship with God works best when we let him lead us.
- There is always a leader in each relationship depending on the activity.

C. A relationship with God gives us what we need to cover us from that which seeks to destroy us.  
Psalm 23:5 "He anoints my head with oil."

- God serves as our protector and its important for us to stay connected to him through our daily relationship with him.

D. Having a relationship with God puts us in a position of having more than we need.  
Psalm 23:5 "my cup runs over."

- Our relationship with God positions us to be filled up whenever we need it.

4. What is the difference between holding a membership with the local church and having a daily relationship with God?