



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. **Introduction**

- Why should we become a member of a church?
- Today many believe we don't need this
- Here are the biblical reasons for Church membership

2. **The Apostles practiced it (Acts 2:42–47)**

- Apostles had daily teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer.
- No indication is given that any believers remained separated from the local church.
- For example, the apostle Paul tried to "join the local disciples" when he relocated to a new community - Acts 9:26

3. **The first-century believers kept track of each other (Acts 2:42–47)**

- Several times in the Book of Acts the phrase, "The Lord added to their number daily," is recorded.
- The church kept track of who was becoming a part of the body of Christ. (Acts 2:47; Acts 4:4; Acts 5:14; Acts 6:1; Acts 6:7; Acts 9:31; Acts 11:21; Acts 16:5).

4. **Ekklesia is the original Greek word for "church." Ekklesia means "the called-out ones."**

- The word itself denotes being called out of something (the world) and into something else (the church).
- This includes both the Church as a whole and the local church.
- We cannot be called out of one thing without being called into another. The Book of Acts does not mention an "invisible church."

5. **Church membership is an expression of commitment.**

- In a world where commitment is diluted and loyalty is nonexistent, the church serves as a standard of commitment. Jesus is looking for those who will not look back, have counted the cost, and are willing to give up everything to follow Him – Lk 9:62; 14:33

6. Church membership models caring.

- Church members exist to accomplish many functions, including devotion to each other, honoring one another, sharing with each other, and practicing hospitality - Rom 12; 1 Cor 12
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7. Church membership shares the burden.

- We are instructed to carry each other's burdens - Gal 6:2
- This also allows the individual members to rest assured that someday they'll need help carrying a burden, and someone will be there to help - much as a healthy family functions - 1 Cor 12:26

8. Church membership breeds encouragement.

- We are spurred on (motivated, energized) and encouraged are just two of the benefits we receive from the local church. - Heb 10:24-25

9. Church membership says, "I'll serve."

- As one must join the military to have the privilege and duty of serving one's country, so it is with the church. - Eph 4:12
- True members are issued equipment to carry out the Great Commission - Mat 28:18-20
- All spiritual gifts are intended to operate within the context of the local church - 1 Cor 12:7; 1 Pt 4:10

10. Church membership is an attitude of submission.

- Church members submit first to each other and then to Christ - Eph 5:21-24

11. Church membership is symbolic of our heavenly citizenship.

- Being committed to the family of God grants us citizenship and eliminates our alien status. - Eph 2:19

12. Church membership is safety for the Sheep in the Sheepfold

- Leaders create a covering so that you can grow and are protected.
- They will be judged for how they care for the sheep - 1 Pet 5:2-4