

Understanding What The Bible Says About Church Membership

Selected Scripture

There are at least **3 reasons** why church membership is so vitally important in the life of a true follower of Jesus Christ:

I. It Is Important Because The Bible It

Romans 12:3-5 - “³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵**so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.**”

I Corinthians 12:12 - “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, **so it is with Christ.**”

In both of these passages Paul was talking about the importance, the uniqueness, and the function of the Church, which he referred to figuratively as the _____ of _____.

The Universal Body of Christ is composed of all true believers in Jesus, and the local church is simply a _____ of that Universal Body.

While the Bible doesn't directly address the concept of formal church membership, there are several passages that _____ the existence of it in the Early Church. (*Acts 2:47; 6:3; Hebrews 13:17*)

The **N.T.** teaching is that if you're a part of the Universal Body of Christ, then you should want to make that relationship _____ through membership in a local church.

II. It Is Important Because The Believer It

A. Our Spiritual Demands It

When believers join a church, they are actually entering into a covenant relationship with _____ and _____.

In **I Corinthians 12**, Paul didn't say that the church is _____ a body, he said that the church _____ a body.

In short, membership can be defined as a _____ engagement and a _____ connectedness to the Body of Christ.

B. Our Spiritual Depends Upon It

Ephesians 2:19-22 - “¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ ***in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.*** ²² In Him you also are being ***built together*** into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

God’s design for the church is that it provides the _____ for well-rounded and balanced Christian growth.

Membership in a local church doesn’t _____ us, but it does _____ us to grow and become spiritually mature in Christ. (***James 5:19-20***)

III. It Is Important Because The Effectiveness Of Our Mission It

Church membership provides a context for strategic _____ to a fallen world!

John 13:35 - “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, ***if you have love for one another.***”

Being part of a committed, Christian _____ is increasingly important in our witness today.

When the whole community of faith comes _____ to put Jesus on display, they can do it a whole lot better than any individual Christian can ever do alone!

Conclusion:

Whether you call it ‘***membership,***’ ‘***partnership,***’ or something else, the **N.T.** assumes some form of a committed, _____ relationship for every true follower of Jesus.

It is only when every believer is faithful to this kind of commitment that the church will be able to live up to her calling as Jesus’ _____ here on earth.

To put it simply, membership ***!***