

EM LIVING LIFE (9) CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

(20.11.03)

(1) DOES CHURCH MEMBERSHIP REALLY MATTER?

1. Necessary or Optional?
2. It is a biblical _____ therefore, not _____ but _____
 - A. You do not _____; you _____
 - B. You do not _____; you _____

(2) YES, IT IS _____ BECAUSE THE NT _____ IT

1. What does it mean to "join"?
 - A. (Acts 5:13) "Kollao" → "To _____ or _____ together"
 - B. (1Cor 5:11-13) → (Deut 13:5; 17:7,12; 21:21; 22:21-22, 24; 24:7)
 - C. (1Cor 6:16-17) → (Matt 19:5; Gen 2:24)
2. _____ were known
 - A. (Acts 1:15; 2:41; 4:4, 32)
 - B. _____ were kept (1Tim 5:9)
3. Servants were chosen by the _____
 - A. (Acts 6:2-5)
4. Meaning of the " _____ " church
 - A. (Acts 5:11; 15:22; 1Cor. 14:23)

"If then the whole church assembles together and all its *members*" and notes "the last two words are not in the Greek but are naturally to be understood." - C. K. Barrett, A Commentary on the First Epistle to the Corinthians (New York: Harper & Row, 1968), p. 324.

5. _____ was practiced

- A. (Matt 18:15-17) B. (1Cor 5:11-13) C. (Matt 18:17; 1Cor 5:4)

6. Leaders must give an _____ for their flock

A. (1Tim 3:1,5) (Acts 20:17,28; Phil 1:1; Titus 1:5-7)

B. (Acts 20:28; Heb 13:17)

7. A church _____ its membership!

(3) IT IS _____ - IT IS FOR YOUR _____

1. **PERSONALLY** _____

A. (Mark 8:38)

B. (Matt 3:13; Acts 9:4; Heb 2:11)

2. **CORPORATELY** _____

A. _____ (Heb 13:17)

B. _____ (Heb 3:13; 10:24-25)

- (Jn 13:34-35) • (1Thess 5:9-11) • (Eph 5:19-21)
- (Jas 5:16) • (Gal 5:13) • (Col 3:16)
- (Heb 3:12-13) • (Eph 4:32) • (Phil 2:1-18)
- (Heb10:24; 6:2) • (Col 3:12-13)

c. God gave each of us _____ to _____ up the church!

- (Eph 4:12, 16, 29)
- (1Cor 14:3,4, 12, 26)
- (Eph 4:11-16; 1Cor 12:12-27)

(4) HOW THEN SHOULD I RESPOND TO THIS?

1. _____ (Mark 1:15)

2. BE _____

A. (Matt 2:19)

B. (Acts 2:38; 8:36; 9:18; 10:48; 16:15,33)

C. (Rom 6:3-4)

"Baptism was part of church life from the very first...We have no knowledge of a time when the church was without baptism or unsure of baptism. It is difficult to explain this apart from a definite command of Jesus" – Leon Morris

3. JOIN A _____ CHURCH

A. If a member, _____ your vows (PCA)

(1) Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?

(2) Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?

(3) Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

(4) Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

(5) Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

4. GET _____

- A. (Heb 10:24-25; Col 3:12-16)
- B. (Gal 5:13; 1Pet 4:10)
- C. (Rom 12:13; 1Cor 16:2-3)
- D. (Jas 5:16)
- E. (Gal 6:17; 1Cor 5)
- F. (Matt 18:15-17; 1Cor 5)
- G. (Heb 13:17)
- H. (Matt 28:18-20)
- I. (Zech 4:10)

"Find a good local church. Get involved. Become a member. Stay there as long as you can. Put away thoughts of a revolution for a while. Join the plodding visionaries. Go to church this Sunday and worship in Spirit and truth. Be patient with your leaders. Rejoice when the gospel is faithfully proclaimed. Bear with those who hurt you. Give people the benefit of the doubt. Say "hi" to the teenager that no one notices.... Volunteer for the nursery. Attend the congregational meeting. Bring your fried chicken to the potluck like everybody else. Invite a friend. Take a new couple out for coffee.... Sing like you mean it. Be thankful someone vacuumed the carpet for you. Enjoy the Sunday that "click." Pray extra hard on the Sundays that don't. And in all of this, do not despise the days and weeks and years of small things." – Kevin De Young