

THE CHURCH | JORDAN ALLEN | JUNE 7, 2020

What's the Big Deal About Church Membership?

Church Membership in the Bible

- Who represents God on earth?
- "Church" in the Gospels (Matt. 16; 18; 28)
- The church in Acts
- Church membership implications in the epistles
 - 1 Peter 2:4-5

"Salvation is a community-creating event.... Salvation includes membership into God's group." – Joseph Hellerman

- Implied in various commands (Heb. 10:25; 1 Cor. 12:7; Eph. 4:12; "one another" commands; holding each other accountable)

"The only Christians who can obey this command are church members who recognize other people as fellow church members."
– John Hammett

- Leaders and Members (1 Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:2; Acts 20:28)

"The case for church membership is nowhere argued in the New Testament but everywhere assumed." John Hammett

Church Membership Defined

"Church membership is (1) a covenant of union between a particular church and a Christian, a covenant that consists of (2) the church's affirmation of the Christian's gospel profession, (3) the church's promise to give oversight to the Christian, and (4) the Christian's promise to gather with the church and submit to its oversight." – Jonathan Leeman

Why Church Membership is Important

(Jonathan Leeman's 12 reasons)

- It's biblical
- The Church is its members
- It's a prerequisite for church membership
- It's how you officially represent Jesus
- It's how you declare your highest allegiance
- It's how you embody and experience biblical images (body of Christ, Temple of the Spirit, people of God, etc.)
- It's how you serve other Christians
- It's how you follow Christian leaders
- It helps Christian leaders lead
- It enables church discipline
- It gives structure to your Christian life
- It builds a witness and invites the nations

What Happens When Voting in New Members

The Church...

- Affirms the testimony of the Christian
- Promises to oversee and disciple the Christian
- Promises to discipline the Christian for his good

The Christian...

- Unites willingly to the church
- Submits willingly to the church
- Becomes the affirmer and promiser with the church