

Church Membership

What is Church Membership?



All that have trusted in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior are members of His universal body made up of all believers past, present, and future. Church Membership, here, refers to the formal commitment of believers in a like-minded local body (church) of believers to visibly proclaim Jesus and to connect in Christian community to grow like Christ.

Why Church Membership?

- **It is the pattern of Scripture:** In the New Testament, formal commitment to a local body of believers is assumed time and again in letter greetings, instructions to elders, church discipline, and in many other ways.

Philippians 1:1; Galatians 1:2; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Corinthians 5

- **It proclaims Jesus:** Church membership proclaims your commitment to Jesus, your commitment to His body of believers, and proclaims Jesus's commitment to you.

John 13:34-35; Ephesians 3:10; 1 Peter 2:9-10

- **It provides accountability:** When you commit to a local body of believers you are entering into relationships that will keep you and others accountable in your walk with God.

Hebrews 10:23-25; Hebrews 13:17

- **It promotes service:** When you unite in the local body of Christ you are able to tangibly connect in service to God, His people, and those in our community and around the world who do not know Christ. This also promotes connection across the universal Church for God's kingdom.

Romans 12:3-7; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-16

- **It prompts care:** When you connect with other believers and commit to God and them you are prompted to care for the needs of each other (member to member) and are given an outlet for spiritual leaders to care for you (elder to member).

Galatians 6:1-2; Acts 6:1-7; Hebrews 13:7; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Timothy 5:9-13

Reflection Questions

1. How would you explain the difference between being part of the universal Church and committing to a local church body?
2. How does church membership visibly proclaim Jesus to the world?

3. What does biblical accountability look like in the local church and how have you experienced its benefits?
4. What spiritual gifts or abilities has God given you that could be used to serve within a local church?