

## Church Membership 101: The Biblical Foundations For...

### Introduction

1. Read Hebrews 10.19-25
2. Personal Story - Marriage
3. Jesus Left Heaven For His Bride – **Revelation 19.6-8**
4. How valuable is the Church to You?
5. Greatest Place On Earth: The True Church of Christ

### Main Aim/Goal Today: Give A Biblical Defense For Formal Church Membership

### Vocabulary Describing The Church

1. **Invisible:** Only God Knows The Heart... those who are truly Born Again
2. **Universal:** Those Who Have Believed From Adam to the Final Individual before Jesus Comes Again
3. **Local:** Churches in Specific Geographical Areas
4. **Visible:** Individuals can See and Hear Members' Profession and Good Works in the Local Church

### Some Will Deceive And Leave The Church

1. See **1 John 2:18-19** and **2 Timothy 3:1-5**
2. **The Wheat vs The Tares within Every Church**

### Biblical Church Membership, A Defense

1. **Nowhere in Scripture is there a Command For Formal Church Membership**
2. **BUT – Formal Church Membership is Implied**
3. **This Goes For Other Topics As Well**
  - a. The Deity of Christ
  - b. The Trinity
  - c. The Rapture
4. **Church – *Ekklesia* = A Gathering, Assembly**
  - a. Mentioned 114x in GNT
  - b. 90x Refers to Local Church
  - c. See 1 Cor 1.1-2, Gal 1.1-2, Eph 1.1, Acts 11.22, Rom 16.3-5
  - d. Picture: Local Churches Gathered Together

## 5. FIVE ways the Bible Implies a Formal Church Membership

- a. The Metaphors Used For the Church
  - i. Flock of God (**Acts 20.28-30**)
  - ii. A Holy Temple (**Eph 2.19-22**)
  - iii. Human Body (**1 Cor 12.12-14**)
  - iv. Household of God (**1 Tim 3.14-15**)
  - v. Demonstrate a Distinct Group apart from Everyone Else
- b. Use of the Phrase “gather the whole church” by Paul in 1 Corinthians 14.23
- c. Pastoral Oversight and Membership Obedience
  - i. Responsibilities of the Pastor
    1. **Philp 1.1-2, Acts 20.28, 1 Tim 3, Titus 1**
    2. Elders knew who was and was not part of the Church
    3. **Hebrews 13.17** – Pastors are accountable for souls
  - ii. How can a pastor know without formal church membership?
- d. The word “join” (κολλασθαι) in Acts 5:12-13 means Strong Commitment
  - i. See also **1 Cor 6.16-17**
- e. Redemptive Church Discipline
  - i. **Matthew 18.15-17 and 1 Cor 5**
  - ii. Redemptive, not Condemnatory: Church discipline is to win the man, not condemn him
  - iii. People are excommunicated for lack of repentance, not sin
  - iv. Redemptive Church Discipline Guards the Purity of the Bride of Christ
  - v. Final Reading: **Eph 5.25b-27**