

Church Membership 101: Obligations & Benefits

Introduction

1. Book: *Dating the Church*
2. Reasons People Do Not Join A Church:
 - a. Independent
 - b. Indifferent
 - c. Immature
 - d. Indecisive
 - e. Ignorant
3. Review: We Learned Last Week, Church Membership is Implied by Scripture
 - a. The Metaphors for the Church
 - b. The Whole Church Gathering in 1 Cor
 - c. The word “join” in Acts 5
 - d. Pastoral Oversight and Accountability
 - e. Redemptive Church Discipline

Main Aim/Goal Today: Show You the Obligations as well as the Benefits In Formal Church Membership

Main Text: Ephesians 4:1-16

Foundations of Obligations and Benefits

1. **Verse 1: Command:** Conduct Ourselves as Christians
2. **Verse 2: How?** Be humble, patient, gentle, bear with one another in Love
 - a. Love – Foundation for the Worthy Christian Life
 - i. Vertical Love and Horizontal Love
 - b. Horizontal Love
 - i. Emotional – Weep with those who weep, rejoice with those who rejoice
 - ii. Physical – Provide for each other’s needs
 - iii. Spiritual – Hold Each other accountable
3. **Verses 3-6: Accountability/Responsibility to Be Unified in Spirit and Word**

- c. Unity of the Spirit
- d. One Hope, Body, Lord, Faith, Baptism, God
 - a. One Faith – See Galatians 1.6-9

4. Verses 7-13: The Gracious Gifts of God

- a. Grace that Saves
- b. The Holy Spirit Who Guides, Counsels, Convicts, Points to Christ
- c. Spiritual Gifts to Affirm True Belief
- d. Church Leaders: To Equip Members for Ministry

5. Obligations of Church Members

- a. Attend Church Regularly to Be Washed and Fed the Word (**Heb 10.24-25, Eph 4.11-13**)
- b. Minister to Other Church Members (**Rom 12:10-13**)
- c. Discipleship of Church Members and Evangelism of the Lost (**Eph 4.25, 29**)
 - i. Purpose of Service: Unity and Maturity (**Eph 4.12-15**)
 - ii. Evangelize, then Disciple (**2 Cor 5.19b-20 ESV**)
- d. Pray for One Another (**Eph 6.18 ESV**)

Benefits of Church Membership

1. Affirmation & Assurance as a True Believer in Christ
2. Care, Accountability, and Sanctification (**Heb 13.13, 17, Jer 17.9**)
3. Shape the Ministries of the Church (**Acts 6, 15**)
4. Unashamed Confidence and Identity in Christ (**Mk 8.34-38**)
5. Greater Use of Spiritual Gifts (**1 Cor 12, Eph 4**)
6. Openly Display the Veracity and Reality of Christ’s Body (**1 Cor 12.27**)
7. Present the world the Power of the Gospel to Unite a People in One Faith (**1 Cor 12**)
8. Give Non-Christians a Picture of the Christian Life to Transform. of a God of Love. & Remove Excuses