

Membership

Session 2 • Living As A Church

The Training Hour • Foothill Bible Church • Spring 2018

Low Commitment Today

Questions

- Where is membership in the Bible?
- Does the Bible differentiate between attenders and members?
- What does being a church member entail?

Defining Membership

- Membership, in common usage, means voluntary association to a group, like a club.
- But when we talk about membership in the church, we are talking about identifying who is “in” and who is “out.”
- Therefore, the _____ of the church are the church.

Membership In The Bible

God has always intended for a sharp, bright line to distinguish those who trust in him and those who do not.

Membership In The New Testament

The process:

- They confessed faith in Christ.
- The church recognized the credibility of that confession and baptized them.
- Baptism functioned as the _____ for entrance into the membership of the church.
- Acts 2:38 – “Repent and be baptized everyone of you”
- They counted those who were being saved (Acts 2:41; 4:4).
- The Jerusalem church was a distinct _____ with its own issues to sort out (Acts 6:1).
- Those persecuting the church knew who to _____ (Acts 8).
- The group of baptized believers in a city comprised the members of the church there. All attenders were members. But they knew who they were. (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1).
- The _____ of local congregations knew they had a specific group of Christians they were responsible for (Acts 20:28; 1 Thess. 5:12–13) 1 Tim. 3:5; Heb. 13:7; 1 Pet. 5:1–5).
- There is evidence that they kept _____: 1 Tim. 5:9

- Christ gave the church authority to judge confessors and confessions, and thus declare who truly represents Jesus and who doesn't (Matt. 16 & 18).

Matthew 16:13–20

Matthew 18:15–20

1 Corinthians 5:1–13

The Ideal NT Church

- All believers in a _____ were members of a church.
- If they came from another area/church and were already confessing Christ, their confession would be _____.
- False teachers/confessors were refuted and turned away.
- True confessors would be added to the list.
- There were only three possible groups in the church at any one time: members, unbelievers, and believing _____.

Why is membership so formal in today's church as compared to the early church?

1. The Number of _____
2. The Ease of Attending
3. The Number of _____

Formal membership in the church today is a _____ to help us best obey and implement the instructions found in Scripture.

Why We Need Membership

1. To affirm our faith and doctrine
2. To strengthen our _____
3. To help us grow in Christ
4. To protect us from the _____ of sin