

Series: *Marks of a Healthy Church*
Sermon #6: Church Membership

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“Church membership is a *formal relationship* between a church and a Christian characterized by the church’s affirmation and oversight of a Christian’s discipleship and the Christian’s submission to living out his or her discipleship in the care of the church.”
—Jonathan Leeman

4 Reasons to Pursue Membership in a Local Church:

1. To love Jesus is to love his bride, the church.

In the New Testament the answer God gives as to where exactly our love for Jesus *and* our love for one another come together is the local church!

2. To distinguish light from darkness

Church membership ensures a Christian that he/she is indeed a citizen of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus has given the keys of the kingdom to the church (not an online ministry, a faith-based organization, a Christian conference, etc...; Matthew 16:19). The earthly authority to recognize who is a bona fide representative/follower of Jesus and to make a righteous judgment about someone’s profession of faith belongs to the local church, under the lordship of Christ.

3. To have proper accountability and oversight

Membership is a mutual pledge we make with each other where we commit to take God at His Word seriously.

Accountability has two levels: theological and practical (Titus 2:14).

The God-given responsibility to oversee and care for your soul belongs to biblically qualified men known as elders/pastors (1 Peter 5:1-4; Hebrews 13:17).

4. *To consistently practice all the 'one anothers' in the New Testament.*

Meaningful membership is what the Spirit of God uses to ignite in each of us the necessary zeal and desire to love one another here at Calvary Baptist. And if we are truly loving one another then the rest of the 'one anothers' will organically flow from this!

Our relationships take on a greater—and more Christ-centered—significance when membership is valued and prioritized in the church.

Recommended Resources for Further Study:

Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus (Jonathan Leeman)

I am a Church Member (Thom Rainer)

What is a Healthy Church Member? (Thabiti M. Anyabwile)

Love Your Church: 8 Great Things About Being a Church Member (Tony Merida)