

I Am a Member

Who can be a Member?

My understanding of what the church is will shape my life and my living [and my church]. ~adapted from Jonathan Leeman, Rediscovering Church (pg. 23)

1. Church membership is _____.

A. The church knew who belonged to it.

- Acts 2:41, 47, Acts 4:4, Acts 6:2-3

B. The church can remove members.

- Matthew 18:17, 1 Corinthians 5:2

➤ People cannot be removed from membership if they are not recognized as and known to be members.

C. Most of the New Testament is written to churches.

D. Jesus spoke directly to churches in Revelation.

The term “church membership” isn’t used in the Bible like it is today. But the practice is implied nearly every time the word church is used in the New Testament. ... Church membership is an assumed [and understood] reality on nearly every page of the New Testament Epistles. ~Jonathan Leeman, Rediscovering Church (pg. 78, 81)

2. Church membership has _____.

A. Members have responded to the Gospel.

- Acts 2:41, 47, Acts 4:4, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23 Isaiah 53:5, Romans 10:9-13 ESV, 1 Corinthians 6:20, Luke 9:23

B. Members need to be baptized.

- Ephesians 2:8-9, Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:34, 42, Acts 8:12-13, Acts 18:8, Acts 2:41-47, Romans 6:3-4, Matthew 28:19



➤ Baptism does not save me, but it is important; Baptism is the first step of obedience after salvation.

To refuse baptism would seem, well, unrepentant. As Mark Dever has put it, getting wet is the easiest command Jesus ever gave to follow. It only gets harder from there. ~Jonathan Leeman, Church Membership (pg. 90)

3. Church membership is an act of _____.

Ephesians 5:26-29

From Acts 2 to Revelation 3, the New Testament is about the local church in one way or another. The local church is God’s plan A for his ministry on earth, and He did not leave us with a plan B. ~Thom Rainer, Church Answers Blog 9/4/2023

➤ What Jesus did for the church and how He loves and values it, should drive and compel us to be members of it.

4. Church membership shows our _____.

- James 2:17-18

➤ A better question than, “Do I have to join a church?” is, “Why don’t I want to, why haven’t I or why won’t I?”

5. Church membership is a _____.

➤ Is it, “Membership is a gift and I get to be a member of God’s church” or “I have to be a member”?

What has God said to me about the importance and priority of _____ a member of His local church?

