

## WHAT IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

Text: Acts 2:41 (also 42-47)

### I. FOUR BIBLICAL \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. **Being added to the church has two Biblical prerequisites, belief and \_\_\_\_\_.**
2. **Being added to the church does not describe a loose association but a complete \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - These new believers left their former group (vs. 40) and identified themselves fully with this new group of people.
3. **Being added to the church is first a \_\_\_\_\_ work of God through the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13), but that spiritual reality must also be officially \_\_\_\_\_ by the church.**
  - Vs. 41, "about 3,000 souls"
  - Vs. 47, they continued to keep records of new members on a \_\_\_\_\_ basis.
  - Acts 6:1, "\_\_\_\_\_ widows"
4. **Being added to church includes \_\_\_\_\_ with the church.**
  - Vs. 44, "All those who believed were \_\_\_\_\_."
  - Vs. 42, "And they continued \_\_\_\_\_."

### II. FOUR MORE BIBLICAL \_\_\_\_\_ FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. **To allow the transfer member to give continuing public \_\_\_\_\_ of saving faith in Christ in a new local church (Acts 9:26-28).**
  - Saul had accepted the Jerusalem church as his church, but they also needed to \_\_\_\_\_ him.
2. **To demonstrate our loving \_\_\_\_\_ to our church family (1 John 4:21, 3:18).**
  - Since love always means \_\_\_\_\_, I should not hesitate to commit to church membership if I truly love the body of Christ.
3. **To bind ourselves as closely as possible into the local body of Christ so we may \_\_\_\_\_ one another (Eph. 4:15-16).**
  - Since God's will and work is for the church to be as closely unified as possible, the question isn't why should a person be a member, but why would a person \_\_\_\_\_ want to be a member?
4. **To make ourselves \_\_\_\_\_ to our church family (Heb. 13:17, Matt. 18:15-18).**
  - Mutual commitment includes mutual accountability, and \_\_\_\_\_ needs accountability.
  - Jesus said, every brother has to be willing to "\_\_\_\_\_ " the church, which means to repent when admonished by the church.

## CONCLUSION

- Church membership means:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Recognition
  - Connection
  - Testimony
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Love
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Accountability
- The Lord Jesus Christ instituted the church, designed it, laid the foundation in Himself, and is \_\_\_\_\_ His church today for His people.
- His will is for every believer to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the church spiritually, visibly, publicly, practically, socially, actively, and in every other way.
- People who get saved and baptized should join the church and continue in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church.
- Church membership is Biblical, it is \_\_\_\_\_ for the individual believer and the whole body, it glorifies the Lord, and it presents a powerful \_\_\_\_\_ to unbelievers of what it means to be committed to Christ.
- Application 1: If you are already a member, seek to love, serve, and edify your church family by fulfilling your unique \_\_\_\_\_ in the body of Christ.
- Application 2: If you are not yet a member, take that step of \_\_\_\_\_ in following Christ.