

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

And when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.
Galatians 2:9



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Biblical Foundations of Membership



the body christ



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Who can be a member?

- Be a genuine born again believer
- Be water baptised
- Have attended the Church for at least 6 months
- Hold to a Biblical Confession of Faith and Practice (See website)
- Be willing to sign and publically commit to a membership covenant
- Be willing to bring life to the body of Christ as an active member
- A Sanctified and Obedient life of a Born Again Christian (ie) Baptised, Generous (Giving), Hospitable (open your house), Caring (visit)
- Submit your life to being corrected and called to repentance by other members in the Church



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Benefits of Membership

Information flow of all Church Matters
Accountability and Protection
Prayer and Practical Support
Personal Development and Growth
Greater Unity in the Church
Is the starting pathway point to releasing greater callings in you
Greater level of relationships and friendships
Input and Care from Leadership
Forum to provide feedback and (vote)*



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Expectations of Membership

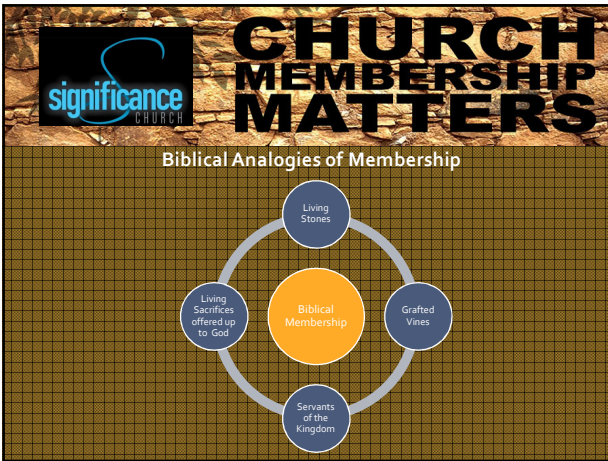
Expectations
To regularly participate in the life of the Church
To walk in holiness through the strength of Gods Spirit
To repent and confess your sins
To submit to the authority of Scripture
To steward the resources God has given you
To pursue the Lord Jesus Christ
Refrain from ungodly and umbilical activities
To submit to the elder(s) and strive for peace and unity



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So Where to from here.....? Membership Process

Sunday, February 1st – Overview and Invitation to become members
February – Responses from potential members to be baptised or discuss questions they have before becoming members
February – Baptism Service (TBC)
Thursday, February 12th Members Information Night 6.30-9.30pm
Thursday, February 26th Membership Response.
Sunday, March 1st Submit Membership Candidates to the Church
Sunday, March 15th Members recognised and prayed in
Sunday, March 15th Onwards – Every Member plays their part.



significance CHURCH

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The Bible doesn't command Membership?

Although Scripture does not contain an explicit command to formally join a local church, the biblical foundation for church membership permeates the New Testament. This biblical basis can be seen most clearly in

- (1) the example of the early church
- (2) the existence of church government
- (3) the exercise of church discipline, and
- (4) the exhortation to mutual edification.

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Membership Matters

Conclusion

Living out a commitment to a local church involves many responsibilities: exemplifying a godly lifestyle in the community, exercising one's spiritual gifts in diligent service, contributing financially to the work of the ministry, giving and receiving admonishment with meekness and in love, and faithfully participating in corporate worship. Much is expected, but much is at stake. For only when every believer is faithful to this kind of commitment is the church able to live up to her calling as Christ's representative here on earth. To put it simply, membership matters.



