

BIBLICAL MEMBERSHIP

12 Traits of a Biblical Church, part 8

1 Corinthians 12:12 - 27, ESV

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Biblically, followers of Christ are not church avoiders or attenders, hoppers or shoppers; biblically, followers of Christ are church members.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12 – 27

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

“For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.”

“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

1. The Bible expects followers of Christ to identify with and belong to a local church.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1 – 2

“Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours . . .”

ROMANS 16:3 – 5

“Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia.”

1 CORINTHIANS 16:19

“The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.”

2. The Bible expects followers of Christ to be served by and submissive to local church leaders.

HEBREWS 13:17

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

3. The Bible expects followers of Christ to yearn for and yield to local church accountability.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:1 – 2

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father’s wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.”

1 CORINTHIANS 5:12 – 13

“For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. ‘Purge the evil person from among you.’”

MATTHEW 18:15 – 17

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

- Acts 6:2 - 6
- Galatians 1:6 - 9 & 2 Timothy 4
- Acts 13:1 - 3

BIBLICAL MEMBERSHIP IS A MEANINGFUL COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW CHRIST TOGETHER IN A LOCAL CHURCH.

WHEN YOU COMMIT TO A CHURCH:

- #1 - You experience God's love in your life.
- #2- Other Christians experience God's love through your life.
- #3 - Non-Christians see God's love for them.
- #4 - God receives the glory He deserves.