

Devotion to One Another - Part 3

Romans 12:1-13; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 1-22-17

Definition: *What is church membership?*

Church membership is a conscious commitment to a local body of believers in Jesus for service and submission by trusting God for good through an imperfect church over time.

Review: *What have we said so far?*

Love is to be real, not a performance.

Love pursues what is pleasing to God.

The pursuit of love must take place in a local expression of the family of God.

Love for one another is fed by an appreciation for what each one contributes to the life of the family.

Church membership is body language.

Church membership is as clear in the NT as the doctrine of the Trinity.

Church membership is love to Christ and others.

Clarifications: *How are we to think rightly about church membership?*

1. Church membership is God's will for God's people.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may *prove what the will of God is*, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. - Romans 12:2

2. Church membership is a conscious commitment.

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; - Romans 12:10

3. Church membership is a matter of faith.

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours: - 1 Corinthians 1:2

4. Church membership is a matter of love.

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and *we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren*. - 1 John 3:16

5. Church membership is service and submission.

And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an

account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you. - Hebrews 13:16-17

6. Church membership is not necessary for salvation.

And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.” - Luke 23:43

7. Church membership is not the suppression of your pursuit of happiness.

Not that we lord it over your faith, but are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm. - 2 Corinthians 1:24

8. Church membership is not finding the ‘perfect’ church (ie, one just like me).

If they were all one member, where would the body be? - 1 Corinthians 12:19

9. Church membership does not mean the leaders can run your life.

Nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. - 1 Peter 5:3

10. Church membership does not mean neglecting your family.

He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity. - 1 Timothy 3:4

11. Church membership does not mean you can never leave a church.

Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. - Acts 13:3

They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. - 1 John 2:19

12. Church membership in name only can be deceiving.

Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.”” - Matthew 13:30

13. Church membership is the outworking of love for Christ.

The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even* the least *of them*, you did it to Me.’ - Matthew 25:40