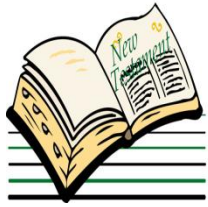


Sermon Notes



Title: *What Is Church Membership and Why Is It Important?*

Text: I Peter 2:4-10

Theme: Visible church commitment and membership expresses your dedication to Christ Who directs you, as a member of His Body, to join together with others who possess faith in Christ Jesus.

I. The Two _____ of Christ's Body

II. The _____ Aspect of God's Spiritual House
(I Peter 2:4-10)

III. _____ Church

IV. The _____ of Visible Church Membership

A. Christ Jesus _____ us to be a visible and demonstrable _____ of His people to the _____.

B. You make a _____ of faith when you _____ the Lord's Church.

C. You demonstrate your _____ and _____ to Christ through His _____.

Next Week Read: I Peter 2:11-17

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. What are the two characteristics of Christ's Body?
2. What aspect of the Lord's Body does Peter discuss in verses 4-10?
3. Define the invisible aspect of the Church.
4. Define the visible aspect of the Church.
5. Are these two aspects two different churches? Explain.
6. How is the Church the "mother" of believers?
7. How has the Church as the mother of God's people been abused and truncated?
8. Can a true church ever become a false church? If not, why? If so, how?
9. Can one be a member of the Invisible Church and not a member of the visible church?
10. Can one be a member of the visible church and not a member of the Invisible Church?
11. Is it sufficient for a Christian to claim to belong to the Invisible Church, yet not be a member of a particular, visible congregation of Christ's Body? Why or why not?
12. Cite a verse or passage of Scripture that assumes visible church membership.
13. How is being a member of the Church different from being a member of a club or other civic organization?
14. Why is church membership important?
15. What are the vows that a Christian takes at SRPC to be a member of the visible church?