

**Life in the Body**  
**Membership in the Local Church**

1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; 1-8-15

Church membership is a commitment to living out the reality of union with Christ and His body and the practical pursuit of obedience to Christ's new commandment that 'you love one another' (John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11-12; 2 John 1:5) through a conscious commitment to a local body of believers in service and submission, trusting God for good through commitment to an imperfect church over time.

*We believe* in the **Holy Scriptures**: that the Bible (containing the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments) is the inerrant, infallible, sufficient Word of God. – 2 Timothy 3:14-17

*We believe* in the **Trinity**: that God is one God (essence) in three Persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. – Matthew 28:18-20

*We believe* in the **Omniscience and Omnipotence of God**: that God is infinite and eternal, knowing all that has, will and could come to pass (including the future choices of morally responsible creatures) and able to do all that His heart desires and His will ordains. – 1 John 3:20; Matthew 19:26

*We believe* in the **Divinity and Humanity of Jesus Christ**: that Jesus Christ is God the Son, being fully God and fully man. – Matthew 1:23; Luke 2:7

*We believe* in the **Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ**: that Jesus Christ is God the Son, born of the virgin Mary, conceived by the Holy Spirit. – Isaiah 7:14

*We believe* in the **Sinlessness of Jesus Christ**: that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life in perfect obedience to His Father, to the point of death on a cross. – Hebrews 4:15

*We believe* in the **Substitutionary Atonement of Jesus Christ**: that Jesus Christ died on a cross as a substitute for sinners and suffered the punishment that sinners deserve for their sins. - 1 Peter 3:18

*We believe* in the **Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ**: that Jesus died physically, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day in a glorified body, never to die again. – 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

*We believe* in the **Second Coming of Jesus Christ**: that Jesus Christ will return to this earth bodily to rescue the righteous and to judge the unrighteous and to set up His visible kingdom on the earth. – Acts 1:11

*We believe* in the **Final Judgment and Everlasting Punishment**: that, one day, God will judge the deeds of men through His Son, Jesus Christ, according to His perfect Law as recorded in the Scriptures, resulting in the righteous receiving their gracious reward and entering an everlasting

heaven and the unrighteous receiving their just punishment and entering an everlasting hell. – Matthew 25:45-46

*We believe in **Justification by Faith Alone**:* that God justifies (“declares to be righteous”) the ungodly and promises the gift of eternal life to all those who receive the gift of the righteousness of Jesus Christ by faith alone, apart from any basis in personal merit or good works. – Galatians 2:16

*We believe in the **Imputation or Crediting of Our Sins to Christ**:* that the sins of the believer are imputed or credited to Jesus Christ, that the punishment for these sins was borne by Jesus on the cross and that the cross is the sole basis for the believer’s forgiveness of sins in the eyes of God. – Isaiah 53:5-6

*We believe in the **Imputation or Crediting of Christ’s Righteous-ness to Us**:* that the record of Christ’s perfect righteousness is imputed or credited to the believer in Jesus and is the “gift of righteousness” God promises in the gospel and is the sole basis for the believer’s acceptance by God and participation in the kingdom of God. – Romans 5:17

*We believe in **Faith Accompanied by Works**:* that works of love and obedience to God’s Word, although not the basis for justification, are an immediate and necessary evidence of genuine faith in Jesus Christ and the basis for full assurance of salvation. – James 2:26

*We believe in **Sanctification by the Spirit**:* that every believer is given the gift of the Holy Spirit from the point of regeneration (“new birth”), is gifted for ministry by the Spirit and is sanctified (grown in practical holiness and Christlikeness) by the work of the Spirit through faith in the truth of the Scriptures. - 1 Thessalonians 2:13

*We believe in **Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)**:* that works are futile to gain God’s acceptance and that no one can erase their sin or earn merit before God by attempting to keep the demands of God’s Law, so that the grace of God alone (“God’s unmerited favor”) is the basis for the salvation (“justification”) of any sinner. – Ephesians 2:8-9

*We believe in **Sola Fides (Faith Alone)**:* that faith alone is the instrument through which a sinner receives the benefit of Christ’s work and enjoys the grace of God. – Romans 3:28

*We believe in **Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)**:* that Scripture alone is the only divine authority for faith and practice and is therefore, entirely sufficient for knowing the will of God for our individual lives. – 2 Timothy 3:16

*We believe in **Solus Christus (Christ Alone)**:* that the Person and work of Jesus Christ alone, through His perfect life and death on the cross, is the sole basis for God’s justifying of sinners. – Acts 4:12

*We believe in **Soli Deo Gloria (To the Glory of God Alone)**:* that the salvation of sinners is to the glory of God alone, without any glory being given to any creature in any way or to any degree. – Romans 11:36