

Life in the Body – Part 5
Membership in the Local Church

Matthew 28:18-20; Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; 2-5-15

Church Membership Defined

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.

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. – Romans 12:10

Mission:
Be Disciple-Making Disciples

Goal: So what is our mission in life? (Matthew 28:18-20)

*Coast exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ –
to see people saved and then grow in Christlikeness.*

What is discipleship? Follow me as I follow Christ. – John 8:12; John 10:27; 2 Thessalonians 3:9; 1 Corinthians 11:1

- We are ourselves disciples of Jesus Christ.
- We are participants in the mission of making disciples.
- The fulfillment of our mission is the fruit of a Biblical vision and lifestyle.
- Our structure is meant to support and encourage our mission, vision, and lifestyle.

Vision:
Rest in Jesus, Hope in God, Pursue Love

Priorities: So what is our fundamental vision for life? (1 Corinthians 13:13)

We seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ who ...

1. **Rest in Jesus (Faith):** Who rest in Jesus for pardon and perfection. (Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 4:10; Romans 5:1-21; Colossians 1:13-14)

2. **Hope in God:** Who hope in God for help and happiness. (John 3:16; John 17:3; Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 16:11; Psalm 42:5; Romans 15:13)

3. **Pursue Love:** Who pursue love according to the Word in order to live a life pleasing to God. (1 Corinthians 13:1-14:1; 16:14; 2 Corinthians 5:9; Romans 12:1-2; 2 John 1:6)

Lifestyle:
Devotion to God's Word with God's People with Good News for the World

Strategies: So what does a Biblical mission and vision look like in everyday life? (John 13:34-35)

1. **Devotion to the Word:** Who are baptized and devoted to the Word of God with the People of God. (Matthew 28:18-20; 1 John 2:3-6; 1 John 2:19; 1 John 3:10, 23; Colossians 3:16; Acts 2:42)

2. **Devotion to Prayer:** Who practice prayer in the closet and home and church for God's grace and the enabling of God's Spirit. (Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 6:9-13; Colossians 4:2; Acts 2:42)

3. **Sunday Gathering:** Who make the gathering of the Church on Sunday a priority. (Hebrews 10:19-25; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Matthew 28:1; John 20:19; Acts 20:7)

4. **Fellowship Networks:** Who are meaningfully connected to other believers in small group fellowship networks of various kinds. (Hebrews 3:12-19; Galatians 6:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Acts 2:42, 46)

5. **Every Member Ministry:** Who are using their gifts to build up the body in love, especially through ministry or ministry teams at Coast. (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Romans 12:4-8; Galatians 5:13)

6. **Unity in the Body:** Who are committed to maintaining unity through love, acceptance, and forgiveness in the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:1-6, 25-32; Colossians 3:12-17; Romans 15:1-7)

7. **Home:** Who play their proper role in the home to the glory of God. (Ephesians 5:15-6:4; Colossians 3:18-21; Titus 2:3-8; 1 Peter 3:1-7)

8. **Workplace:** Who work to please the Lord in their job and honor Christ in the workplace. (Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-4:1; Titus 2:9-10; 1 Peter 2:18-20)

9. **World:** Who seek to be ambassadors for Christ in service to their neighbors as they seek to impact their community for Christ and to play the role of responsible citizens. (Luke 10:25-37; Romans 13:1-10; 1 Peter 2:12-17; Colossians 4:5-6)

10. **Good News:** Who make efforts to befriend unbelievers in their families, neighborhoods, workplaces and communities and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in all kinds of ways. (Colossians 4:2-6; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

11. **Good Works:** Who serve others through meeting the practical needs of the poor and suffering, whether of believers in the church or unbelievers in the community. (Galatians 2:10; 6:10; Titus 2:14; 3:8, 14; 1 John 3:16-18; Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 5:3-16; Matthew 25:31-46; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:9, 13-15; Luke 19:8; Romans 15:26)

12. **Giving:** Who give financially, according to their ability, to support the local ministry of the gospel, to support missions endeavors beyond the local body, and to meet the needs of the poor in our church and outside our body. (Galatians 6:6-10; 2 Corinthians 8:12-15; 9:6-15; 3 John 1:5-8; 1 Peter 4:9; Hebrews 13:2; Acts 20:35)