

The Duties and Privileges of Church Membership (1)

Why Church Membership?

Six reasons some are sceptical of the notion of church membership:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

1. Why the Church?

1) What is the Church?

- *Matthew* 16:13-18
- *Matthew* 18:15-20

2) The Marks of the Church

- Doctrine
- Discipline
- Distribution

2. Why Membership?

Church membership is everywhere assumed:

- 1) Jesus in *Matthew* chs 16, 18
- 2) Jesus in *Revelation* chs 2, 3
- 3) The Book of *Acts*
- 4) The Epistles
 - Addressed to churches
 - Teaching about the church
- 5) Evangelism in *Matthew* 28:18-20

6) Authority in the Church

- eg. *Hebrews* 13:17, *1 Thessalonians* 5:12, *Acts* 20: 28

7) Choosing those in Authority in the Church

- Elders: *1 Timothy* ch 3, *Titus* ch 1,
- Deacons: *1 Timothy* ch 3, *Acts* ch 6

8) Discipline in the Church

- *Matthew* ch 18
- *1 Corinthians* ch 5, *2 Thessalonians* ch 3

3. How Membership?

- Covenant membership and baptism: *1 Corinthians* 12:12-13
- Covenant membership and the Lord's Supper: *1 Corinthians* 10:17
- Covenant fellowship with God, Christ... and "us" in the church: *1 John* 1:3

Vows for Becoming a Member of this Church:

1. Do you believe in God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as the one and only true God?
2. Do you know yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving eternal punishment for your sin?
3. Do you trust only in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, for your salvation, as the One punished in your place on the cross?
4. Do you promise, in humble dependence on the grace of God, to turn away from all sin and live a holy life?
5. Do you promise to serve in and contribute joyfully to the worship and work of Christ's Church, and your local church in particular, to the best of your ability?
6. Do you submit to the Biblical oversight and discipline of the elders in your local church?
7. Do you affirm all these things, believing the whole Bible to be true and the Word of God?

Congregational Vow:

8. Do you, the members of this congregation promise to love this sister in Christ; and to encourage and pray for her in her Christian walk and witness?

CLOSE

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace:
O refresh us, O refresh us,
Travelling through this wilderness.