

**The Doctrine of the Church**  
**Church Membership**  
**Rom. 12:4-5**

**Introduction**

Church membership has been a serious decline for a long time.

**I. The New Covenant requires that we seek a regenerate church membership.**

Jer. 31:31-34

This is why the Churches are addressed the way they are....

1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2

**II. A Healthy Church Will Practice Formal Membership**

A. Formal membership assumed in the New Testament

B. The Church is a specific and identifiable group of people

1. Members

Rom. 12:4-5

1 Cor. 6:15; 12:12-27

Eph. 3:6; 4:25; 5:30

2. Citizens, household, family

Eph. 2:19; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 2:

3. family, etc.

4. flock, etc.

C. Discipline requires an identifiable membership

Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:6-11

D. There are implicit lists in the NT

Acts 1:15; 2:41, 47; 4:4; 1 Tim. 5:9

The Church knew who they were, they knew who belonged and who didn't.

E. NT Ethics and the "one anothers" assume membership

E.g., Heb. 10:24-25

F. Leadership is leadership over specific sheep

Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:2

G. Membership is fundamentally community accountability

### III. A Healthy Church Will Practice Vital Membership

\*Vital = meaningful membership, not just attendance

- A. Vital membership means participating membership
  1. Assembling with God's people  
Heb. 10:26
  2. Fulfilling responsibilities to each other  
Jn 13:34; Gal. 5:13-14; Eph. 4:1-3
  3. Fulfilling responsibilities to pastors  
1 Cor. 4:1; Phil. 2:29; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:17
  4. Fulfilling responsibilities to the lost – working together to fulfill the Great commission, locally and globally.  
Acts 1:8
  
- B. Vital membership means responsible membership
  1. Responsible for admission and removal of members  
Matt. 18:15-20
  2. Responsible to maintain unity  
Eph. 4:3
  3. Responsible to protect doctrinal infidelity  
2 Tim. 1:13

Application