

Church Membership

Acts 2:37-47

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- Acts 2:37-47

Church membership is a formal relationship between a church and a Christian characterized by the church's affirmation and oversight of a Christian's discipleship and the Christian's submission to living out his or her discipleship in the care of the church''

- Jonathan Leeman (editorial director of 9Marks)

Act 2:37-47

1. Affirmation and Oversight of Discipleship (vv 37-41)
2. Living out Discipleship (vv 42-46)
3. Fruitfulness of Discipleship (vv 47)

Church membership is a formal relationship between a church and a Christian characterized by the church's affirmation and oversight of a Christian's discipleship.

I. Affirmation and Oversight of Discipleship (vv 37-41):

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

- Acts 2:37-38,41

“Repentance and faith must go together to complete each other. I compare them to a door and its post. Repentance is the door which shuts out sin, but faith is the post on which its hinges are fixed. A door without a doorpost to hang on is not a door at all, while a doorpost without the door hanging on it is of no value whatever.”

- *C. H. Spurgeon*

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

- *Romans 6:3-4*

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

- *1 Corinthians 12:13*

Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband.

- *1 Timothy 5:9*

¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

- *1 Corinthians 5:12-13*

⁶ For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, ⁷ so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

- *2 Corinthians 2:6-7*

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- *Matthew 16:19*

Church membership is a formal relationship between a church and a Christian characterized by the church's affirmation and oversight of a Christian's discipleship and now the **Christian's Submission to living out his or her discipleship**

2. Submission to Living out Discipleship (vv 42-43)

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

- Acts 2:42-43

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures

- *Luke 24:44-45*

Acts 2:42-43

Marks of a healthy church member

I. Devoted to Apostle's Teaching

"² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good"

- *1 Peter 2:2-3*

Acts 2:42-43

Marks of a healthy church member

- I. Devoted to Apostle's Teaching
- II. Fellowship

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

- *Philippians 1:3-5*

Acts 2:42-43

Marks of a healthy church member

- I. Devoted to Apostle's Teaching
- II. Fellowship
- III. Worship

“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.”

- 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Acts 2:42-43

Marks of a healthy church member

I. Devoted to Apostle's Teaching

II. Fellowship

III. Worship

IV. Prayer

²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

- John 4:23-24

3. Fruitfulness of Discipleship (v47)

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- Acts 2:46-47