

FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 64: THE CONGREGATION (MEMBERSHIP)

Main Point: *In order for the local Church to function the way God intended it must have a healthy value for membership. Which is an agreed-upon plan for a congregation to affirm and take responsibility for person's faith spiritual growth and for that person to take responsibility the local church.*

I. The Congregation

A. Under the Authority of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23; Col. 1:18, 2:19)

1. Members (Matt.18:17; 1 Cor.5:12; Gal 1:6-9)
2. Deacons (Acts 6:3-6)
3. Elders (Titus 1:5-9; Acts 14:21-23)

B. Who Carry out the Mission of God (Matthew 28:16-20)

1. Embodying the Gospel (Phil.1:27-30; Luke 8:38-39; Rom.5:20-6:1)
2. Proclaiming the Gospel (Mark 16:15; Luke 8:38-39;
3. Protecting the Gospel (1 Peter 3:15; 2 Cor. 10:5; Col. 4:5-6; 2 Thess. 2:15; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16)

C. With these core essentials

1. Presence of God (John 14:26; Acts 2;d Rom. 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Phil. 3:3)
2. The Word of God
3. The People of God

II. What Is Church Membership

A. Evidence of Membership in Scripture

1. Command to the church to submit to its leaders (Heb 13:17; 1Thes. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 5:17)
2. Numerical records and tracked growth (Acts 2:37-47)
3. Formalize elections (Acts 6:1-6)
4. A common awareness of who was among them(Romans 16:1-16)
5. Organized and required care (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-3; 1 Timothy 5:3-16)
6. Discipline into restoration or removal (Mat.t 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:12-13)
7. One body many members (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12)

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III. Why Does Church Membership Matter

A. It matters to God

1. He founded It (Matt. 16:18)
2. He Purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28)
3. He identifies himself with it (Acts 9:4)
4. It is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:23)
5. Holy Spirit dwells there (Rom. 8:9)
6. Chief instrument for glorifying God and bring the gospel to the nations (Rev. 5:9)

B. For the sake of our spiritual growth (Ephesians 4:1-16)

C. For the sake of our witness to the world (John 13:34-35;)

D. For the sake our faithfulness to the end (Hebrew 10:32-39; Rev. 2:1-7).