

### ***Why Join a Church?***

“If you are not a member of a church you regularly attend, you may well be going to hell.”  
~Mark Dever

How might this be a relevant topic to you if you’re already a member of a church?

“One thing a local congregation does best is to show your non-Christian neighbors that the new life made available through Jesus’ death on the cross is also the foundation for a new society.”  
~Joshua Harris

What aspects of contemporary culture contribute to the decreased emphasis given to the importance of church membership?

#### **Scripture Indicates Church Membership in New Testament Times**

- The Instructions for Church Discipline (Matt 18:15-17; 1 Cor 5:1-13)
- The Meaning of the Word “Join” (Acts 5:13)
- The Meaning of “the Whole Church” (1 Cor 14:23)
- The Instructions for Pastoral Oversight and Spiritual Leadership (Acts 20:28; Heb 13:17)
- The Biblical Metaphors Used to Describe Local Churches (Flock, Temple, Body, Household)

What implication does the role of the church in church discipline have on the subject of church membership?

If a church has no membership roll, how would elders determine those they are responsible to shepherd? What message is sent to those elders by a person who will not consent to join?

How do the 4 metaphors describing local churches support a definite church membership?

#### **Biblical Reasons for Joining a Church:**

- You prove that you’re not ashamed to identify with Christ or His people.
- You stop being an independent Christian.
- You have a greater opportunity to use your spiritual gift.
- You openly demonstrate the reality of the body of Christ.
- You participate in a more balanced ministry.
- You demonstrate your commitment to “the proper working of each individual part.”
- You encourage new believers to commitment to the local body of Christ.
- You encourage a ministry when you find it faithful and join it.

Describe the “Spiritual hitchhiker” Dr. Whitney mentions. How should a church approach the problem of “spiritual hitchhikers” who haven’t become members?

Why would Martyn Lloyd-Jones say that church membership is “the biggest honour which can come a man’s way in this world?”

At the essence of church membership is commitment (elders to member, congregation to member, and member to congregation). If so, what does it say about church dates?

Anything left unsaid in this chapter that you wish had been addressed?