

Questions Posed for Study

Question: Why is it important/necessary for church Membership?

To Join or Not! Part II

(Acts 2:41 – 47)

Intro: We began this two-part lesson last week and were looking at the importance of church membership. There some professing Believers who reject the idea of becoming a member of a local church and I have a suspicion it has more to do responsibility and accountability than whether it is biblical or not. Last week we looked at several important points that Scripture does indeed, teach us that membership is important:

1. In the beginning – _____, it is a historical record that the early church did organize themselves into local churches. The Apostle Paul wrote letters to various church groups, and Jesus wrote letters via the Apostle John in the book of Revelation.
2. Jesus _____ the church – **Matthew 16:13 – 20**, and Jesus stated that based on Peter’s testimony of who Christ is, that He would build His church on that truth.
3. We used **Acts 8:36 – 39** to show how the Scriptures would _____ future Generations to become a united group of Believers and the important step.
 - a. _____ is an absolute pre-requisite – Salvation by faith and faith alone.
 - b. Believer’s baptism by _____ in which the individual states their salvation by faith.
 - c. Then they are _____ to the local church as members.
4. Without membership within a local church we ask several important questions.
 - a. How would the local church raise funds to, (Tithes & offerings)
 - (1). How will there be an organized _____ locally and worldwide?
 - (2). How will we support _____ needs prayer wise & financially?
 - (3). How will we pay for the local expenditures of the local church seeing that the local church is too be _____ from local or national government intrusion.
 - b. The Apostle Paul encouraged other local churches in different cities within different countries to take up offerings for those of the church in Jerusalem –
 - (1). **I Corinthians 16:1 – 3.**
 - (2). **Romans 15:25 & 26.**

This week we look at what constitutes a church.

III. A commitment.

A. Church membership is a _____!

1. First it is a commitment born out of a love and willingness to be a _____ of something bigger than ourselves for the cause of Christ kingdom.
 - a. We should be _____ about joining the church we are attending.
 - b. We should be ready and willing to give our _____ of being saved Scripturally and having been baptized by immersion.
 - c. One must _____ to become a member.
2. Well, my parents have been members and when I reach membership age & eligibility I should automatically become a member. Nope!
3. We all become a member through the same process. (Salvation, baptism & petition)

B. **Acts 2:41 – 44** –

1. Salvation – **verse 41** - “received His Word.”
2. Baptism by immersion – **verse 41** – “Baptized”
3. Doctrinal agreement – **verse 42** – “doctrine”
4. Faithfulness in attendance – **verse 42** – fellowship”
5. Participation in the Lord’s Supper – **verse 42** – “breaking of bread”
6. Prayer – **verse 42** – “prayers”
7. Joining the group – **verse 44** – “added to the church”

C. To not join a local church is like –

1. Someone wanting a _____ but refusing to join the company.
2. For a man and a woman wanting to live together but _____ to get married.
3. Someone wanting a bank loan but refusing to _____ any documents.
4. Someone wanting to live in a house but refusing to pay rent or buy it.
5. A soldier unwilling to swear allegiance to his country.
6. An illegal alien wanting be coddled and taken care of, but not wanting citizenship.

D. Doctrinal beliefs taken from the Scriptures are vitally important as they are stated truths gleaned from the Bible meant to _____ us on the straight and narrow road in the daily exercise of our spiritual walk and growth.

1. They are like _____ along the pathway of our Christian walk. –
(**Ephesians 4:14; Titus 1:9; 2:1 & 7**)
2. Paul’s warning to Timothy is certainly true today - **II Timothy 4:3**, and the _____ is found in **II Timothy 4:2**.
3. The mission of the church is to _____ - _____ the Redeemed to go out into the world and reach it with the Gospel. **Ephesians 4:11 – 15**.