

LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Acts 2:41

God intends every believer to join with others in the membership of a local church

I. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- A. SALVATION - Acts 2:41&47 and I Corinthians 1:2
- B. RECEPTION OF WATER BAPTISM BY IMMERSION - Acts 2:41
- C. CONFESSION OF FAITH - Romans 10:9-10
- D. A CREDIBLE CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE - I Corinthians 5:11

II. THE REALITY OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

A. MEMBERSHIP ROLES INDICATED

- 1. 3,000 were added - Acts 2:41
- 2. Adding to their number day by day - Acts 2:47
- 3. Men and women were constantly added - Acts 5:12-14

B. CONGREGATIONAL DECISIONS RECORDED

- *Note:* This indicates that the New Testament churches were self-governing congregations

- 1. Ministry assignments - Acts 6:1-6
- 2. Instructional assistance - Acts 11:22
- 3. Seeking counsel - Acts 15:1-2
- 4. Selecting reporters - Acts 15:22-27
- 5. Disciplining the errant - I Cor. 5:1-5, 13
- 6. Aiding widows - I Timothy 5:16

III. SOME RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- A. CORPORATE PRAYER - Acts 12:5
- B. CONGREGATIONAL UNITY - I Corinthians 1:10
- C. THOUGHTFUL GIVING - I Corinthians 16:1-2
- D. HOLY PURITY - II Corinthians 6:17-7:1

Over please >

- E. STEADY GROWTH - Colossians 1:9-10
- F. EFFECTIVE WITNESS - I Thessalonians 1:8
- G. COMPASSIONATE ASSISTANCE - I Timothy 5:16
- H. REGULAR ATTENDANCE - Hebrews 10:23-25
- I. RESPECTFUL SUBMISSION - Hebrews 13:17
- J. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION - I Peter 4:10

IV. SOME RESISTANCES TO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- A. UNIVERSALISM - Hebrews 12:22-24
 - I'm a part of the universal body of Christ and I need no other connections
- B. PASSIVISM - Hebrews 3:12-13
 - Being inactive and disengaged in church life is not really that bad ...
- C. TRADITIONALISM - Philippians 3:2-8
 - An unwillingness to leave the church you grew up in or that your family was a part of
- D. INDIVIDUALISM - Romans 12:10-13
 - I'll just do my own thing

CONCLUSION:

The New Testament indicates that local churches were made up of local members

Are you being obedient to the model of church membership indicated in Scripture?