

**9 Marks of a Healthy Church: (Membership 2.0)**  
**September 18, 2022**

**Read Eph. 4:17-25.**

**BIG IDEA**--Membership and discipline in the local church are pictures of Christ's Body in the earth and a powerful ways to show Christ's character to others.

>**MEMORY VERSE**—*Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another (Eph. 4:25).*

**What is Church Membership? Stated plainly...**\*Church membership is the **commitment** every Christian should make to attend, love, serve, and submit to a local church.

**Congregation.** \*Church membership at best is a reflection of a living commitment to God and His people in a local assembly(*...we are members one of another (Eph. 4:25).*).

*Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. -Heb.13:17*

**Where is Church Membership in the Bible?** Throughout OT, God made a clear distinction between His people and the world (**see Num. 5:1-3, Deut. 7:3-4**).

The Lord Jesus taught that entering the kingdom of God means being bound to the church “on earth” (**See Matt. 16:16-19; See Matt. 18:17-19**).

The NT refers to some people as being “inside the church” and some being “outside” (**See 1 Cor. 5:12-13**).

The NT speaks of the reality of church membership by giving “one another” commands to local churches. These commands help Christians understand what church membership should look like in everyday life.

**John 13:34**-*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

**Eph. 4:32**-*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

**Heb. 10:24-25**-*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

**Why is Church Membership important? Heb. 13:17**

The church presents God's witness to Himself in the world (**Rom. 12:2**); It displays God's glory. Through church membership, non-Christians should see in the changed lives of God's people

that God is holy and gracious and that His Gospel is powerful for saving and transforming sinners. **See Eph. 4:17-28.**

**What is Church Discipline? In a word accountability. Speaking broadly,** church discipline is everything the church does to help its members pursue holiness and fight sin.

More specifically, church discipline is the act of correcting sin in the life of the body, including the possible final step of excluding a professing Christian from membership in the church and participation in the Lord's Supper because of serious unrepentant sin.

**Where is it in the Bible? See Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:1-13.** The NT commands corrective discipline (excluding unrepentant sinners from the fellowship of the church). **Other references 2 Cor. 2:6, and 2 Thess. 3:6-15.**

### **Why is Church Discipline important?**

Church Discipline shows love for:

1. the good of the disciplined individual
2. other Christians as they see the danger of sin
3. the health of the church as a whole
4. the corporate witness of the Church and non-Christians in the community
5. the glory of God (who is Holy, Holy, Holy)

**See Heb. 12:5-11**

### **Question for Discussion**

1. **Why is membership in the local church important? Heb. 13:17; Heb.10:24-25**
2. **What is church discipline and why is it important? 2 Thess. 3:6-15**
3. **How is spiritual health encouraged through active church membership and discipline done in humility? See Galatians 6:1**
4. **Pray.**
5. **Prayerfully Sign the Covenant if you are in agreement.**

**9 Marks of Healthy Church by Mark Dever**

**[www.9marks.org](http://www.9marks.org)**