



MEMBERSHIP

Why Membership?

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Our Goals for the Series

1. To communicate who we are
2. To create some “connection groups” for newer people to experience church life.
3. To create a document that represents our DNA to guide what we hope to reproduce.
4. To offer an opportunity to make a formal commitment to this family of believers.

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1 Timothy 1:5

But the goal of our instruction is love...

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Why is commitment a good thing?

Because commitment... enhances... relationship!

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Jim Elliott, missionary

“Wherever you are, be all there.”

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Ecclesiastes 9:10

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

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Acts 2:41

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

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Acts 2:41

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

1. Receiving Peter's teaching on salvation, which included repentance
2. Being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins.

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1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

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1 Corinthians 6:17

The one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with him.

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Bill Hybels

“There is nothing like the local church when it’s working right. Its beauty is indescribable. Its power is breathtaking. Its potential is unlimited. Whatever the capacity for human suffering, the church has a greater capacity for healing and wholeness. The potential of the local church is almost more than I can grasp! No other organization on earth is like the church. **Nothing even comes close.**”

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Hindrances to Commitment

- **It's easy to take the local church for granted.**

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Hindrances to Commitment

- It's easy to take the local church for granted.
- **It's easy to take a consumeristic approach to church.**

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Hindrances to Commitment

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- **It's easy to limit one's church involvement to what's convenient.**

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Hindrances to Commitment

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- It's easy to take a consumeristic approach to church.
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- **It's easy to adopt a critical or cynical view of church, given all of its flaws and short-comings.**

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- It's easy to adopt a critical or cynical view of church, given all of its flaws and short-comings.
- **We have far more distractions than Christians had long ago.**

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Ephesians 1:22-23

And [God] put all things under [Jesus'] feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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Ephesians 1:18

[I pray that] having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

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Colossians 1:15-18

[Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. . . . **And he is the head of the body, the church.**

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Hebrews 2:11-12

For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

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Zechariah 2:8

For thus said the Lord of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for **he who touches you touches the apple of his eye:**

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More Christians than ever don't practice their faith.

In 2000, 74% of Christians said that faith was central to their lives.

Today, it's 54%.

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Timothy Keller, *Center Church*

“Believers who live in individualistic cultures such as the United States are **blind** to the importance of being in deep community and placing themselves under spiritual accountability and discipline. This is why many church-hoppers attend a variety of churches and don’t join or fully enter any of them.

American Christians see church membership as optional. They take a non-biblical feature of American culture (*i.e.* individualism) and bring it into their Christian life.”

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Charles Spurgeon

“Let us not be swayed by the whispers of the enemy, who would have us believe that our lives are our own to live as we please. **No, dear friends, our lives are not our own.** We have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus, and we belong to Him!”

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2 Corinthians 7:2-3

Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that **you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.**

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Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and **members of the household of God**, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

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Colossians 2:19

...the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

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Colossians 2:1-2

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love,

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Colossians 3:14 NASB

Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

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“Jesus certainly loves us individually and justifies us via our personal faith in him. However, the relationship between Christ and his bride is a relationship between the sovereign Lord and a corporate body.

Jesus loves a people as his bride, and consequently, we cannot be joined to him as the one for whom he died, if we have no love for his wife.

Scripture knows nothing of the lone-ranger Christian who is uncommitted to the church.”

R.C. Sproul

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Why Membership?

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Why Membership?

1. A Cultural Reason

It is an antidote to the attitudes in our society of independence and consumerism.

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Why Membership?

2. A Practical Reason

A Membership Commitment identifies our family.

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Why Membership?

3. A Personal Reason

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth.

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Why Membership?

3. A Personal Reason

“[Christ] works on us in all sorts of ways, but above all, He works on us through each other. Men are mirrors, or ‘carriers’ of Christ to other men. That is why the Church, the whole body of Christians showing Him to one another, is so important.”

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

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4. A Biblical Reason

Christ is committed to the church.

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Why Membership?

4. A Biblical Reason

Ephesians 5:25

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

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4. An Evangelistic Reason

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Why Membership?

4. An Evangelistic Reason

“Our relationship with each other is the criterion the world uses to judge whether our message is truthful. Community is the final apologetic.”

~ Francis Schaeffer

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Summitview Membership Series

Week 1: Why Membership?

Week 2: What is a Christian?

Week 3: What is the Church?

Week 4: Where Does Summitview Fit?

Week 5: Who is Summitview?

Week 6: What is Summitview Doing?

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