

Why Membership Matters

Introduction:

- A. American Express made the slogan famous: "Membership has its privileges."
- B. But is membership in a local church a Biblical idea? And if so, why does it matter?

I. Membership: What It _____

- A. _____ (*1 Cor 12:12, 14, 19-20*): a distinct part of a whole (*1 Thes 1:1*).
- B. _____ (*1 John 1:3-7*): joint participation, partnership, contribution (*Acts 2:42; Gal 2:9*).
- C. _____ (*Heb 13:17*): following the lead and responding to the care of another (*1 Pet 5:5*).

II. Membership: What It _____

- A. "I want to _____." (*Acts 9:26; 1 Cor 12:14-20*).
- B. "I want to _____." (*1 Cor 12:21-26*).
 - 1. Fellowship in worship (*Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; 1 Cor 10:16-17*).
 - 2. Fellowship in support (*1 Tim 5:3-16; 1 Cor 9:14; 2 Cor 8:4; 11:8*).
 - 3. Fellowship in service (*1 Pet 4:7-11; Eph 4:11-12*).
- C. "I'm willing to hold others and be held _____." (*1 Cor 12:27; 1 Tim 3:2; 1 Pet 5:2*).
 - 1. Being held (*1 Tim 3:2; 1 Pet 5:2; 2 Tim 4:2; 1 Cor 5*).
 - 2. Holding others (*Heb 12:12; James 5:19-20*).

III. Membership: Why It _____

- A. I need to be a part of something _____ than myself (*Titus 2:1-10; Prov 11:14*).
- B. I was created in Christ Jesus for _____ (*Eph 2:10*).
- C. We can do so much more _____ than alone (*Acts 2:42-47*).
- D. I need _____ (*Rom 12:9-21*).