



Distinct: The Biblical Prerequisite of Church Membership

Speaker: BJ Chursinoff

Church membership is a covenant of union between a particular church and a Christian that consists of the church's affirmation of the Christian's gospel profession, the church's promise to give oversight to the Christian, and the Christian's promise to gather with the church and submit to its oversight.

A prerequisite is something that is required as a prior condition for something else to happen or exist. A *Biblical* prerequisite is something that is required as a prior condition for a Christian to be able to obey Jesus.

3 examples where Church Membership needs to be in place so that obedience to Jesus can be possible:

1. Church Membership needs to be in place so that _____ can _____ the church biblically.

*"I exhort the elders among you as a fellow elder and witness to the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory about to be revealed: **Shepherd God's flock among you**..." – 1 Peter 5:1-2b*

*"...they (your elders) keep watch over your souls as those who will **give an account**..." – Hebrews 13:17b*

*"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, **which he purchased with his own blood**." – Acts 20:28*

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, since he is not the shepherd and doesn't own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. This happens because he is a hired hand and doesn't care about..."

the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep." – John 10:11-15

2. Church Membership needs to be in place so that Christians can relate to their elders biblically.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, since they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you." – Hebrews 13:17

3. Church Membership needs to be in place so that Christians can submit to _____ biblically.

*"... with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with **one another** in love..." – Ephesians 4:2*

*"Therefore, putting away lying, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, because we are members of **one another**." – Ephesians 4:25*

*"And be kind and compassionate to **one another**, forgiving **one another**, just as God also forgave you in Christ." – Ephesians 4:32*

*"... speaking to **one another** in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord..." – Ephesians 5:19*

*"... submitting to **one another** in the fear of Christ." – Ephesians 5:21*

Interested in becoming a member of Gospel City Church?

1. Let us know you're interested.
2. Go through our online Membership path.
3. Meet with the elders.