

Church Membership: It's Biblical

Proclamation Life Groups; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Week of Sunday, November 6, 2016; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme: Church membership is biblical, practical, and wise. It's also a commitment that a Christian makes to a local gathering of believers as they long for the final gathering of all believers in heaven.

I. The Need For Membership – Read Hebrews 3:5-14

- A. What does the Spirit exhort us NOT to do (vv.7-8)? What does that mean? Do you think of sin as something active and threatening or as something passive and tame (v.13)?

- B. What negative example is given (vv.8b-11)? (Read Exodus 16-17 for background) What happened to the Israelites who hardened their hearts and disobeyed God (vv.10-11, 19)?

- C. Give some practical, everyday examples of how you can exhort your fellow church member and attender on a regular basis (v.13)? How can you best help them to grow in godliness?

II. The Demand for Membership – Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

- A. According to Acts 2:36-42, how does someone get added to the church?

- B. After reading 1 Cor. 5:1-13, do you think they practiced membership? Why or why not?

- C. What are the different instructions for those inside the church and those outside the church?

- D. How does Hebrews 13:17 help us understand the wisdom of church membership?

III. The Commitment of Membership – Read Hebrews 10:24-25 and Romans 12:3-13

- A. After reading Hebrews 10:24-25, answer the following questions
 1. What are all the commands listed for believers in these two verses?
 2. What do you think it means “*to not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some*”?
 3. How should this command impact what you do on Sunday mornings?

- B. After reading Romans 12:3-13, answer the following questions
 1. Why is it important to not think more highly of ourselves than we ought (v.3)?
 2. What do you think is your gifting? How could it be used to bless the church?
 3. What are some ways that you could grow in sincerely loving the body at Proclamation?