

Class 1: Membership Matters

Why does membership matter?

What the Church is not:

1.

2.

3.

What the Church is:

“The Church isn’t the Kingdom. It’s the community of subjects loyal to the King.”

What are some objections to membership?

“I don’t need to be part of a church to be a Christian.”

“We don’t see church membership anywhere in the Bible.”

“I’m already committed to this church. Do we really need to make it so formal?”

What should a member experience in the church?

Are we exclusive or inclusive?

What are some practical ways being a member of Sunnybrook matters?

What do we hope to accomplish over the remaining five weeks?

Membership isn't rocket science, but it does require intentionality. This class is designed to provide a common foundation for God's people in the Sunnybrook fellowship. Our remaining weeks will cover the following topics:

- **Week 2:** "Our Principled History" (2/11/18)
- **Week 3:** "Our Book & Its Story" (2/18/18)
- **Week 4:** "Essential Beliefs" (2/25/18)
- **Week 5:** "Distinctive Beliefs" (3/4/18)
- **Week 6:** "The Meaning of Membership" (3/11/18)

"I am a church member. This membership is a gift. When I received the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, I became a part of the body of Christ. I soon thereafter identified with a local body and was baptized. And now I am humbled and honored to serve and to love others in our church. I pray that I will never take my membership for granted, but see it as a gift and an opportunity to serve others and to be a part of something so much greater than any one person or member. I am a church member.

And I thank God that I am."

- Thom S. Rainer, I Am A Church Member