



# WHAT IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

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*grace*  
BIBLE CHURCH

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IT IS IMPORTANT FOR A CHURCH TO RECOGNIZE ITS MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE THE MEMBERS ARE THE VERY SUBSTANCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH. A CHURCH IS NOT A BUILDING, BUT RATHER A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE PURPOSED TOGETHER TO FAITHFULLY SERVE THE LORD. THE MEMBERS ARE THE CHURCH.

JOINING A LOCAL CHURCH'S MEMBERSHIP CAN BE CHARACTERIZED BY TWO WORDS: PARTICIPATION AND COMMITMENT. IT IS **PARTICIPATION** IN THE GOSPEL (PHILIPPIANS 1:5), CHARACTERIZED BY LOVING SERVICE. IT IS ALSO A **COMMITMENT** TO OTHER BELIEVERS THAT THE BIBLE DESCRIBES AS FAMILY DEVOTION (ROMANS 12:10). WHEN A CHRISTIAN BECOMES A MEMBER OF GRACE BIBLE CHURCH, HE IS EFFECTIVELY STATING THAT THIS IS WHERE HE WILL FAITHFULLY ATTEND, LOVINGLY SERVE, AND GENEROUSLY GIVE.

MEMBERS ARE NOT STATISTICALLY TRACKED OR HELD TO SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS IN THEIR SERVICE OR GIVING. INSTEAD, THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE BODY AS THE LORD LEADS.

## SHOULD I BECOME A MEMBER?

IF YOU ARE A BELIEVER IN CHRIST, DESIRE TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED AS A BELIEVER IN THE GOSPEL, AND AGREE WITH OUR CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP. CHURCH LEADERSHIP WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT THIS DECISION. APPROACH ONE OF THE CHURCH'S LEADERS ABOUT THIS DESIRE AND THEY WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE PROCESS.

## SHOULD I GIVE TO THIS CHURCH?

IF YOU DO NOT CALL YOURSELF A CHRISTIAN, THEN PLEASE KEEP YOUR MONEY. WE ARE NOT HERE TO COLLECT FROM THOSE OUTSIDE OF THE FAITH. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST AND REGULARLY ATTEND HERE, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER OFFERING SOME OF WHAT THE LORD HAS GIVEN YOU TO THIS CHURCH. THESE DONATIONS ARE USED TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH, ALONG WITH MISSIONARIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT.

IT WAS THE PRACTICE OF THE EARLY CHURCH TO SET MONEY ASIDE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK WHEN THEY GATHERED FOR THEIR CHURCH SERVICES (1 CORINTHIANS 16:2). BELIEVERS ARE NOT COMMISSIONED TO GIVE A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE; RATHER, GOD HAS TOLD US TO GIVE GENEROUSLY AND WITH JOY (2 CORINTHIANS 9:7).

IT IS OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR DONORS TO BE TRANSPARENT ABOUT OUR SPENDING. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT OUR BUDGET, PLEASE SPEAK WITH CHURCH LEADERSHIP.