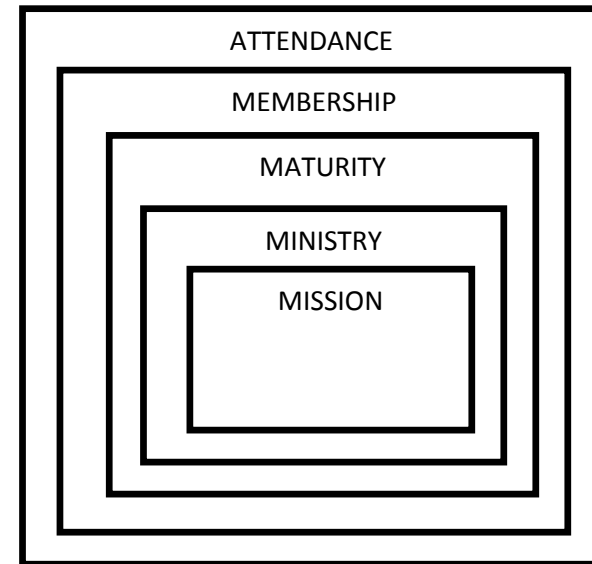


IS IT NECESSARY TO JOIN A CHURCH?

Reference: miscellaneous Scripture

Pastor Larry Webb

Christians are called on not just to _____ but to _____



Definition: individual church membership is transacted as someone, in a formal sense, _____ himself *with* and _____ himself *to* a particular local congregation

Let's examine some of the biblical basis for church membership:

ONE...the use of the terms “_____” and “_____” in the book of Acts implies church membership

:

- membership is implied through the use of the word “_____”.
Reference: **Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14; and 11:24**
- membership is implied through the use of the word “_____”.
Reference: **Acts 5:1-13** (see screen)

- membership is implied through the use of the phrase “out from _____ you.”
Reference: **Acts 6:1-6**

TWO...the instructions for church _____ can only be applied in the context of church membership

The New Testament has outlined specific instructions on just how the church should respond if someone in the membership is persistent in sin.

Reference: **I Corinthians 5:11-13** (see screen)

THREE...the instructions for pastoral _____ necessitates membership in a particular church

References:

I Timothy 3:1, “*This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a **bishop** (the term “*bishop*” means an overseer)...*”

Hebrews 13:17, “*Obey those who rule over you (this means pastors and elders), and be submissive (to them), for **they watch out for your souls**, as those that must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*”

FOUR...the use of biblical _____ for the church indicate membership

The New Testament uses a number of different grammatical metaphors to describe the church, and these analogies are used to refer to specific local churches.

References: **I Corinthians 12:27**; **Ephesians 2:21**;
I Timothy 3:15

Shadow Mountain has basic four requirements for membership:

- _____ (i.e. acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord)
- _____ (immersion in water as a public symbol/announcement of someone’s salvation)
- membership _____ (attendance at Discovering Church membership class)
- membership _____ (a signed commitment agreeing to SMC’s membership covenant)

Six specific benefits of belonging to a local congregation

One...it places someone underneath the _____ and _____ of other Christians

Reference: **I Corinthians 12:25**, “*that there should be no schism in the body (the church) but that **the members should have the same care for one another.***”

Two... it gives someone an environment for _____

Reference: **Ephesians 5:21**, “***Submitting to one another in the fear of God.***”

Three... it gives someone a better opportunity to use their _____ for the greater common good

Reference: **I Corinthians 12:7**, “*But the manifestation of the Spirit (meaning a spiritual gift) **is given to each one for the profit of all.***”

Four... it puts an end to spiritual _____

Five... it defines who can be _____

Six... it identifies someone with Jesus Christ and the _____

Reference: **Ephesians 2:19**, “*Now, therefore, you are no longer (spiritual) **strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God** (the church).*”