

# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

June 7, 2020

## Scripture Reading - Ephesians 2:11-17

*“Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.”*

# Membership Matters (part 3)

## 1. A local church is an outpost of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Eph. 2:18-22; cf. 2 Cor. 5:20 and 1 Peter 2:9-10).

*“For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God**, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into **a holy temple** in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into **a dwelling place for God** by the Spirit.” -Ephesians 2:18-22*

*“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, **a holy nation, a people** for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now **you are God’s people**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” -1 Peter 2:9-10*

**Discussion Questions:** Do kingdoms or countries usually know who their citizens are? How do they know? How do they distinguish between citizens and non-citizens?

\*Church membership is like a kingdom \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. Church membership is like membership in a

\_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 1:3-14; 2:19).

*"Blessed be **the God and Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for **adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ...**" -Ephesians 1:3-5*

*"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and **members of the household of God...**"  
-Ephesians 2:19*

## 3. Church membership is like being part of a

\_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 12:3-8; cf. 1 Cor. 12:12-31).

**Discussion Questions:** Under normal circumstances, do you think a **family** knows who's in the family and who's not? Do they know each other's names?

Is it normal for a part of the **body** to go off on it's own and do its own thing? What do you think God wants us to understand about the local church from these metaphors?

# Christ Church Membership Pathway

1. Place your trust in Jesus alone for salvation.
2. Share the story your spiritual journey with a pastor.
3. Be baptized by immersion.  
- Romans 6:1-11; Colossians 2:9-14; Acts 2:37-41
4. Attend a membership luncheon.  
- Here we talk about our values, beliefs, and covenant, as well as the joys and responsibilities of church membership.
5. Sign and return the church covenant to a pastor.
6. Finally, the members of the church will vote to receive you as a member.

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