



Seeing What We believe

1 Cor. 14:33, 40

1 Cor. 14:33 For **God is not *the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. ...***

40 **Let all things be done decently and in order.**

❖ When church members believe and practice the same doctrine, unity prevails.

Psa. 133:1 **Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!***

Eph. 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

13 Till we all come in **the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1

NAME AND PURPOSE

ARTICLE 2

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 2.02—AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 2.03—COVENANT

Tonight, we begin looking at “ARTICLE 3” of our Constitution and By-laws.

ARTICLE 3

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.01—QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Those seeking membership must, through their actions, words, lifestyle and affiliations, evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior. They must renounce sin and endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord. Membership will be granted upon a majority vote of the members present at any church service or meeting, and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

- (A) By baptism (immersion) under the authority of this local church following a profession of faith as a believer in Christ Jesus as personal Savior;
- (B) By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion, under proper authority of that church, subsequent to a profession of faith and according to the doctrine of our church; those with unscriptural baptism will not be considered for membership and must submit to scriptural baptism before joining.

(C) By testimony of faith, having been baptized by immersion in another Bible-believing church of like faith, authority, and practice; or

(D) By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon majority vote of the congregation after confession is made publicly before the church membership of the sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the pastor (or the church trustees, if the office of pastor is vacant).

Six Reasons to Be a Faithful Member of a Local Church

Posted on September 19, 2011 by Paul Tautges

It is our conviction that every Christian should be an active member of a Bible-teaching local church. As believers in Christ, we are members of His local body and must discipline ourselves to be actively involved in ministry as a way of life. Here are some specific reasons why you should be a committed member of a solid, Bible-teaching local church.

1. You follow the pattern set forth in the New Testament. Although the word “membership” itself is not used the principle is present in the New Testament. For example, most of our NT books are letters that were written to specific groups of people who had chosen to identify themselves with Christ and each other. The word “church” is almost always used to refer to a specific group of people who in some way had committed themselves to serving the Lord and one another in the same ministry location. Numbers were known (Acts 1:15, 2:41, 4:4), rolls were kept (1 Tim. 5:9),

servants were selected (Acts 6:2-5), discipline was practiced (1 Cor. 5:12-13), worship was corporate (1 Cor 14:23), and shepherds knew for whom they were responsible (Heb. 13:17). If you are saved, by virtue of repentant faith in Jesus Christ, then you should want to make that association visibly known through church membership.

Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

1 Tim. 5:9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man,

Acts 6:2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

1 Cor. 5:12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

1 Cor. 14:23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in *those that are* unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

Heb. 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

2. You have a greater opportunity to use your spiritual gifts. At the moment of your conversion the Holy Spirit came to live inside of your body (1 Cor 6:19). When He did this, He brought along the spiritual gift(s) that He sovereignly chose for you to possess for the blessing of the church (1 Cor 12:7, 11). **As we use our gifts, we are being good stewards of the manifold**

grace of God (1 Peter 4:10). Can you use your spiritual gift without joining a church? Yes, but in most churches many ministry opportunities are limited to church members only. This is as it should be. Unity in doctrine, purity of life, and submissive accountability to one another and leaders are necessary for a healthy Christian life. The process of becoming a member also gives the existing leadership the opportunity to discern one's agreement in doctrine, ministry purpose, and goals; thus enabling them to know where best you may serve.

1 Cor. 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

1 Cor. 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. ...

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

1 Pet. 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

3. You become a more committed part of a spiritual family. Joining a local church demonstrates a certain level of commitment. It shows that you want to be more than a bystander, that you want to be involved in ministry in a more significant way. Joining a local church is like entering into a covenant relationship with other believers in order to love them as an active part of a spiritual family (1 Jn 4:7). We also need the spiritual oversight and soul care of faithful shepherds (Heb 13:17).

1 Jn. 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

Heb. 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

4. You ensure a balanced Christian life. By nature we all have the tendency to gravitate toward extremes. God's design for the church—as a multi-faceted body whose members are interrelated and interdependent—provides the ideal atmosphere for balanced Christian growth. As we sharpen each other, our continual contact with other believers promotes balance. In his book, [Spiritual Disciplines within the Church: Participating fully in the body of Christ](#), Donald Whitney writes, “No one develops the proper spiritual symmetry just by listening to Christian radio, watching Christian television, or

reading Christian books. You can't get this kind of maturity merely by participating in a group Bible study. Unless you're an active part of a local church, your Christian life and ministry will be imbalanced."

5. You avail yourself of the wisdom of a multitude of counselors. God never intended for us to live our lives independent of others, or "above" them. He desires for us to develop relationships of accountability with other Christians. According to Proverbs 11:14, "Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety." The local church is a great place to find wise counsel and direction from spiritual leadership and older, more mature believers (Titus 2:1-8).

These relationships will help guide you in the many decisions that you face in life so that you may discern God's good and perfect will.

Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become **sound doctrine**:

2 That **the aged men** be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

3 **The aged women** likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

4 That they may teach **the young women** to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their **children**,

5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

6 **Young men** likewise exhort to be sober minded.

7 In all things shewing thyself **a pattern of good works**: in **doctrine** *shewing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

6. You experience the joy of serving others. God has re-created us in Christ Jesus for the purpose of bringing glory to Him by bearing fruit (Eph 2:10; John 15:2). The fruit of the Spirit is primarily manifested in our relationships with others (Gal 5:22-23). Believers are to follow the example of Christ the Master Servant (Jn 13:15). By joining a local church, you are agreeing with God that one of the ways to bear fruit in the Christian life is by serving others.

<https://counselingoneanother.com/2011/09/19/6-reasons-to-be-a-faithful-member-of-a-local-church/#:~:text=%20Six%20Reasons%20to%20Be%20a%20Faithful%20Member,spiritual%20family.%20Joining%20a%20local%20church...%20More%20>

Eph. 2:10 For we are **his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Jn. 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may **bring forth more fruit**.

Gal. 5:22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Jn. 13:15 For I have given you an example, that ye should **do as I have done to you**.

Conclusion

Eph. 4:22 That ye **put off concerning the former conversation the old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**;

24 And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let **all** bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**