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Church Membership

Reasons

By Ryan Tolan

**On a scale of
1-10, 10 being
the highest, how
would you rate
your service to
your church?**

Outline

- Identity (Who we are)
- Structure (What we look like)
- One Anothers (What we do)

Identity: Main Points

- Jesus planted and builds the universal church
- If Jesus is your Lord, support what He established
- Church membership is presumed in the Bible

Identity: Jesus Builds

- **Matthew 16:18** - “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock **I will build My church**; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”
 - The Lord build His church
 - We should have a role in being built

Identity: Jesus is Over the Church

- **Ephesians 1:22** - “And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as **head over all things to the church,**”
 - Christ is the head over all things
 - In His authority, Christ was given to the church

Identity: Jesus' Headship as Husband

- **Ephesians 5:22** - “For the husband is the head of the wife, as **Christ also is the head of the church**, He Himself being the Savior of the body.”
 - Christ is head and savior of that church
 - The relationship between Christ and the church is foundational to the ideal picture of marital relationships

Identity: Preeminence Over Us

- **Colossians 1:18** - “He is also **head of the body, the church;** and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”
 - Jesus is to be treated as greater than the rest of us
 - Our membership in church is one way we acknowledge the significance of Jesus in our lives

Identity: The Church Presumed

No passage declares “you are now part of the church,” but there are passages that expect the fellowship of believers:

- **Titus 1:5, 9b** - “appoint elders in every city as I directed you...to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict” matters if shepherding believers is expected
- **Hebrews 10:25** - “not forsaking our own assembling together...” applies if believers are supposed to assemble

**Why did you join
the church?
Why do you
stay?**

Outline

- Identity (Who we are)
- **Structure (What we look like)**
- One Anothers (What we do)

Structure: Main Points

- The saints are expected to commit to leadership.
- The church is part of the “church reconciliation” process
- Leaders serve those among them.

Structure: Shepherd Oversight

- 1 Peter 5:2-3 – “2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”
 - Shepherds oversee the congregation allotted to them
 - The Shepherd is committed to a congregation, not to a roaming group of individuals

Structure: The Church in Commission

- **Matthew 28:19-20** - “19 **Go** therefore and ***make disciples*** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching** them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
 - “All that I commanded” is what the church is equipped for
 - The individual Christian can participate in the building up of the Body through discipleship

Structure: Church Reconciliation

- **Matthew 18:17** - “If he refuses to listen to them, **tell it to the church**; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”
 - The church is to role support the reconciliation process
 - Failure to repent results in removal from the church
 - Membership is part of associating with the church

Structure: Eph. 4 - Built to Equip

- **Ephesians 4:11-12** – “11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the **equipping of the saints** for the work of service, **to the building up of the body of Christ**”
 - Some among the saints equip the rest to serve
 - The equipping process requires participation from the body being equipped

Structure: Eph. 4 - The Equipping Result

- **Ephesians 4:13** – **“until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”**
 - The equipping process of the church ends when everyone is unified in faith and in knowledge of Jesus
 - Practically, the process, therefore, will not end

Structure: Eph. 4 - Doctrine Protection

- **Ephesians 4:14** – “As a result, **we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there** by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming”
 - The church’s role results in proper doctrine being understood, believed and defended
 - The church should be a doctrinal safe-haven

Structure: Eph. 4 - Everyone Belongs

- **Ephesians 4:15-16** – “15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom **the whole body, being fitted and held together** by what every joint supplies, according to the **proper working of each individual part**, causes the **growth of the body for the building up of itself** in love.”
 - Each part of the body is intended to work as designed
 - Each person has a purpose in the church

**How do you
show a
commitment to
your church?**

Outline

- Identity (Who we are)
- Structure (What we look like)
- One Another's (What we do)

Some One Anothers: Main Points

- Much of the New Testament was written to churches
- Direction was given on how to interact with each other
- Without the church context, much biblical application would be lost
- The one anothers reveal our need to:
 - Belong
 - Build
 - Behave

Some One Anothers: Belong

- Be **members** of *one another* (Romans 12:5; Eph 4:25)
- Be **devoted**, give **preference** to and **accept** *one another* (Romans 12:10; 15:7)
- Be of the **same mind** as *one another* (Romans 12:13, 15:5)
- Be **hospitable** and **greet** to *one another* ((Romans 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Peter 4:9; 5:14)
- Have **fellowship** with *one another* (1 John 1:7)

Some One Others: Build

- **Build up** *one another* (1 Thes 5:11; Rom 14:19)
- **Care, comfort** and **encourage** for *one another* (1 Cor 12:25; 1 Thes 4:18; 5:11; Heb 3:13; 10:25)
- Employ your spiritual gifts in **serving** *one another* (Gal 5:13; 1 Pet 4:10)
- **Teach, admonish** and **bear** *one another* (Rom 15:14; Gal 6:2; Eph 5:19; Col 3:13, 16)
- **Pray** for *one another* (Jam 5:16)
- **Stimulate** *one another* to love and good deeds (Heb 10:24)

Some One Anothers: Behave

- **Love** *one another* (2 John 5, John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; Rom 13:8; 1 Thes 3:12; Heb 10:24; 1 Pet 1:22; 4:8; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11-12)
- Be **reconciled** in **peace** and **kind** to one another (Matthew 5:24; Eph 4:32; 1 Thes 5:13)
- **Confess** your sins to and **forgive** *one another* (Mark 9:50; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13; Jam 5:16)
- Show **forbearance/humility**, **submit** to and **seek the good** of *one another* (Eph 4:2; 5:21; Philp 2:3; 1 Pet 5:5; 1 Thes 5:15)

Some One Anothers: Don'ts

- Don't **judge** *one another* (Romans 14:13)
- Don't become **arrogant** against *one another* (1 Cor 4:6)
- Don't **bite** and **devour** *one another* (Gal 5:15)
- Don't become **boastful** in **challenging** *one another* (Gal 5:26)
- Do not **lie** to *one another* (Col 3:9)
- Don't **forsake** assembling with *one another* (Heb 10:25)
- Do not **complain** against *one another* (James 5:9)

**Are you ready to
share the gospel
with someone
this weekend?**

2x4 Gospel

	1	2
Who Jesus is	Jesus is fully God	Jesus is fully Man
What Jesus did	Jesus Died for our Sins	Jesus Resurrected
How We Respond	We should Repent (turn from sin to Jesus)	We should Believe (in Jesus)
Our New Relationship	Jesus is our Lord	Jesus is our Savior

Questions?

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