

Meaningful Membership

What it Means to be the Church

Summary Review

1. The Church's Charter

Christ has given the local church heaven's authority for declaring on earth who is and is not a citizen of His kingdom

(Matt. 16:18-19; 18:18; 28:18-20)

Summary Review

2. The Church's Membership

"the church's affirmation and oversight of a Christian's discipleship and the Christian's submission to living out his or her discipleship in the care of the church"

(J. Leeman)

Summary Review

3. The Church's Essence

The regular gathering of believers in mutual submission for gospel growth and maturity in the faith by gospel-speaking, prayer and service

(Acts 2; Eph. 4; I Cor.12; Heb. 10)

Submission and Shepherding

➤ Hebrews 13:1-17

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

(Hebrews 13:17)

Submission and Shepherding

➤ Hebrews 13:17

1. Submitting to local, qualified spiritual leaders for our spiritual care is an essential aspect of meaningful membership
2. The aim and desire of the elders is to watch over your soul with joy and not grief

Practical Outcomes

1. Be baptized as the outward expression and affirmation of your faith in Christ
2. Submit to the oversight of this church body through membership
3. Consider carefully the proposed "membership covenant"
4. Commit to a small group of some kind for mutual care and gospel growth