

Connect group study #33



More than a seat - the value of church membership 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

A. Sermon points

1. Church membership does not make you a Christian
2. Church membership was in place from the beginning

"So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls....praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. "

(Acts 2:41, 47)

3. Church membership holds church members accountable

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 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."

(Matthew 18:15-17)

4. Church membership can be suspended

"For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."

(1 Corinthians 5:12-13)

"When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord."

(1 Corinthians 5:4-5)

5. Church membership enables us to submit in the Lord to our church leaders

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

(Hebrews 13:17)

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labour among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:12)

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

(Acts 20:28)

B. Discussion starter

Have you ever belonged to a club? What were the advantages and disadvantages?

C. From the Bible

1. Work through the sermon points and Bible verses to answer the question:
Why is church membership so valuable?
2. Why is the phrase “*in the Lord*” in 1 Thessalonians 5:12 so important?
3. How are we to view the church and other church members according to 1 Corinthians 12:12-27? What does this imply?

D. Implications for me



Christ Church Tygerberg

Proclaiming God's Word. Preparing God's People.
Prompted by love. Persevering in love.

1. Are you a member of your local church? Why, or why not?
2. Are you being a faithful member and fulfilling your membership responsibilities? How?
3. How would you know if your church is a good church or a bad (even cultish) church?

According to our membership form, this is what we expect from church members in REACH-SA churches:



- a) It is expected that you have spiritual concerns as a priority in your life.
- b) You should attempt to regularly attend church.
- c) You should attempt to be present at a Connect Bible Study and Prayer Meeting.
- d) You should attempt to be involved in a ministry at Christ Church Tygerberg.
- e) You should tithe regularly to your church, not to other organisations indiscriminately. Christ Church Tygerberg in turn supports a number of other facets of the Lord's work.
- f) You should be loyal at all costs to Christ, Christ Church Tygerberg, your Rector and leaders, refusing to listen to or pass on any form of gossip.*
- g) Whilst we realise that not everyone will be in a position to comply with all the above standards, they should, with prayerful consideration, be your aim.

**This excludes the reporting of any kind of abuse or suspected abuse by church leaders or members to the relevant authorities.*

E. Prayer suggestions

For yourself

Thank God for your church.

Thank God that he is building his Church by bringing people of all ages to repentance and faith in Christ.

Thank God for your church leaders and fellow church members.

Ask God to use you as a church member to be an encouragement to others in the church.

Ask God to show you where he would have you serve, and jump into a ministry.

Ask God to grow you in your faith as you serve with others and enjoy being part of a church family.

For our Church

Please pray for our **Student/Young Adults ministry**. May more and more young people be encouraged and challenged in their walk with the Lord!

For our Gospel partners

Let's pray for **Cross Central Church** in Parow. May the Lord give Quentin and his team much wisdom as they proclaim the gospel, teach His Word and serve the community in practical ways through programs such as English lessons, Homework assistance and the student centre. May the love of Christ change many lives through Cross Central Church.