

“A church is a local, living body of Christians who are committed to Jesus and committed to one another.”

-Mark Dever

Outline

- A. 1 Corinthians 12:21-27 (Membership Helps the Body Function Properly)
- B. Acts 20:28 (Membership Helps Pastors Work Effectively)
- C. Matthew 18:15-17 (Membership Helps Everyone with Accountability)
- D. Hebrews 13:17 (Membership Helps Christians Obey Appropriately)

1 Corinthians 12:21-27 (Membership Helps the Body Function Properly)

1 Corinthians 12:21-27

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Acts 20:28 (Membership Helps Pastors Work Effectively)

Acts 20:28

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.

Matthew 18:15-17 (Membership Helps Everyone with Accountability)

Matthew 18:15-17

“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. ¹⁶ 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. 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.”



Hebrews 13:17 (Membership Helps Christians Obey Appropriately)

Hebrews 13:17

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.

From the poem *Invictus* by William Ernest Henley:

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.

Philippians 2:6-8

Though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

“Becoming a church member means leaving behind the comfort of individualism and voluntarily allowing yourself to be bound to others. It is a beautiful picture of the Gospel. And we do this because Jesus joyfully left behind his comfort and bound himself to us.”
-Anonymous

