

## Playing your part well

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The very moment you surrendered your life to Jesus Christ He received you into His Body – His universal and local church as an eternal life-member.

Membership into the church is a privileged gift to all believers. With this privileged membership, however, comes responsibility. Membership into the church means much more than just receiving a handshake and having your name entered into a church register.

Membership is all about responsible function – *playing your part well* in the everyday life of your church. Through active membership the following is accomplished:

- Personal growth
- Growth of other believers in your church
- Kingdom of God growth, through reaching out to your unsaved friends through practical expressions of love and sharing with them the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The following Scripture references are helpful in gaining a better understanding of what membership is about and will help to motivate you to live as an active member in your church, serving others through your unique personality, character, spiritual gifts, experiences and talents. Note: Nothing in your past, present or future life is of waste.

## **Biblical Perspective**

What term does Paul use to depict *believers* in the church?

1 Corinthians 12:12a \_\_\_\_\_

What term does Paul use to depict the *church*?

1 Corinthians 12:12b \_\_\_\_\_

List the different things Paul says in the following five references about members in the church.

a. 1 Corinthians 12:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. 1 Corinthians 12:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. 1 Corinthians 12:25b \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. 1 Corinthians 12:26 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e. 1 Corinthians 12:27 \_\_\_\_\_

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How is the joining and knitting together the whole body of different members in the church accomplished?

Ephesians 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the goal of your serving in your church through membership?

Ephesians 4:12, 13 \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Biblical Practice**

The New Testament Church exploded in size after Peter's open-air sermon at Pentecost. At that time about 3,000 new believers were added to the existing 120 disciples.

Following this large addition to the size of the existing church, how did the new believers express their on-going commitment to God and each other through membership?

Acts 2:42 tells us ... *"They continued steadfastly in ..."*

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

What else did the members of this new church do?

Acts 2:44 \_\_\_\_\_

## Summary

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The life of a believer is not to be an isolated affair. By God's design you are to function as a committed community member of His Body, the church – contributing together that which the Body needs for growth – contributing your uniqueness and God-given gifts, time, talents and treasure to this aim.

### **You are, and have, what your church needs to grow**

Through a responsible involvement in the church, you and other believers can enjoy unity, harmony, peace and spiritual growth through a commitment of mutual love towards each other ...

- Membership is ordained by God
- Membership is good for you and others
- Membership is not an option for those who are genuine about spiritual growth
- Membership is critical to church growth.

If you are not a member of your church, take urgent steps as soon as you can and become one. Have your membership acknowledged publicly in the presence of your church family. Begin to serve the Body of Christ, your church, using your special gifts and talents. Your growth and the growth of your church depend upon your membership being active.

Right now, decide on being a *server*, not an *observer* in your church.

Take this important next step in your spiritual growth – be a Body Builder through being an active member of your church.



