

DIVE IN TO MEMBERSHIP

Acts 2:41-47

God wills for every believer to be connected to a local church family

LET'S GET STARTED

In the New Testament, all new believers united with a local church, and that sets the precedent for every believer throughout all generations.

LET'S HEAR THE WORD

⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Two Kinds of Church; Two Kinds of Church Membership:

1. Membership in the _____ Church (Hebrews 12:22-23).

Joshua Harris—The big C Church. This Church is not about any one building or congregation or denominational tradition. It is the larger family of God around the world, made up of all those who have received the gift of salvation by grace alone through faith in Jesus.

2. Membership in the _____ church (Acts 2:41).

Wayne Mack—The visible church consists of believers who are alive and meeting together right now.

Quotable

C. S. Lewis noted that the word membership is of Christian origin, but the world has emptied it of its original meaning. Stores offer discounts to "members," and advertisers use member names to create mailing lists. In churches, membership is often reduced to simply adding your name to a roll, with no requirements or expectations. To Paul, being a "member" of the church meant being a vital organ of a living body, an indispensable, interconnected part of the body of Christ. We need to recover and practice the biblical meaning of membership.

—Rick Warren

If you would like to know more

Stop Dating the Church: Fall In Love with the Family of God, by Joshua Harris
(Multnomah Publishers, 2004)

DIVE IN TO MEMBERSHIP (Acts 2:41-47)

WHY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Henry Blackaby—No one can become the kind of complete believer he ought to be outside the functioning body of a New Testament church.

Membership provides a venue for _____.

Acts 2:42

Membership provides a home for _____.

Acts 2:44-46

Membership provides opportunities for _____.

Ephesians 4:11-12

Wayne Mack—Regular, formal ministry opportunities are a privilege given to people who are willing to commit and submit without reservation to the total ministry of the church.

Membership provides accountability for _____.

Galatians 6:1

Wayne Mack—The plain, unvarnished truth is, that every one of us needs the accountability that comes from formal, regular, intimate relationships with other godly people. God knows and has told us clearly that every one of us needs the accountability that formal church membership provides.

LET'S LIVE IT

We can put today's truth into practice by uniting with a local church and making the most of all its opportunities for growth and ministry.

If you would like to speak to any of our Pastors about a spiritual need in your life, here is their contact information:

Church phone: 843.569.6745

Pastor David: Office extension 11, email: dcoleman@crowfieldbaptist.org

Pastor Gary: Office extension 14, email: gfabian@crowfieldbaptist.org

Pastor Andy: Office extension: 18, email: aanderson@crowfieldbaptist.org

You may also discover what the Bible says about how to become a Christian by visiting the following page on our website: <http://www.crowfieldbaptist.org/salvation/>