

# Sermon Reflections

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## *Church Membership* (Selected Scriptures)

**Summary:** Being a faithful Christian, follower of Jesus, means being a faithful church member. Fulfill Christ's call to join and care for the Church.

### ***Faithful Church Member***

#### **1. Who Can Be a Church Member? (Acts 2:38-47)**

- We learn from Acts that repentant, changed believers who are willing to gather and commit are fit to be church members. Why is it necessary that church members show evidence of a changed life? Why is it important that a church member be willing to gather and fully commit to a local church body? What happens if either of these characteristics are missing?
- What is the relationship between faith and repentance for a believer? Can you truly have one without the other? Does one precede the other, or are they simultaneous acts? What do you tell someone who insists that only one of these is necessary for salvation (based on their 'too narrow' reading of a Scripture text)?

#### **2. What Marks Out a Church Member? (Acts 2:38-47; Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 11:17-34)**

- Scripture is clear that Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances that are to occur in the context of a local church body. Why is it important we do these things? Why does the context in which these are done matter?

#### **3. What Are Some Responsibilities for a Church Member? (Acts 2; Ephesians 4:1-13)**

- Three of the main responsibilities of church members are to pursue unity, serve the body, and give. In which of these responsibilities do you excel? In which of these responsibilities do you need to grow?
- What are some specific ways in which you can practice these responsibilities at GBC? How can you encourage others to dive in and participate in these responsibilities? Who is someone you can encourage in this area?

#### **4. How Does One Become a Church Member? (Matthew 16, 18)**

- As laid out in the sermon, the new membership process at GBC will now include congregational affirmation as the final step. As a member, how do you feel about your new responsibility?
- Will you prayerfully do your part in affirming and receiving new members? Will you make a concerted effort to attend Sunday Evening Fellowships (SEFs) in order to ensure you are a participant in this process?