

The Members of the Church

- I. Who are members of The New Testament Church?
 - A. The saved (Acts 2:47)
 - B. Penitent baptized believers (Acts 2:38-41)
 - C. Christians of all nations (Rom 1:16; I Cor 12:13; Acts 10:34-35; 15:7-9)

- II. The Church is the Body of Christ (Eph 1:22-23)
 - A. New Testament Christians were not “voted on” before being baptized and becoming members of the Church (Acts 8:35-39)
 - B. Jesus adds us to the Church (i.e., body of the saved) - Acts 2:47
 - C. What has to happen first? believing (John 8:24), repenting (Luke 13:3), confessing the name of Jesus (Matt 10:32-33), and being baptized (Mark 16:15-16) - Acts 2:38-41
 - D. How do we get into that body? Through baptism (I Cor 12:13; Rom 6:3-4)
 - E. You cannot be in Christ without being in the Church !

- III. What privileges go with membership (i.e., being a member of body of Christ)?
 - A. Forgiveness of sins; communion with Jesus (Col 1:13-14; Matt 26:26-30; I Cor 10:16-17)
 - B. Access to God, the Father (Eph 2:18) through Jesus our advocate (I John 2:1-2)
 - C. A Spiritual family: Heavenly Father (I John 3:1; II Cor 6:16-18; Rom 1:7) citizens, brothers & sisters of God's household (Eph 2:18-19); brethren (Col 1:2)
 - D. Fellowship with one another and continually cleansing from sin (I John 1:7)
 - E. Prayer and healing (James 5:13-16; III John 1:2)
 - F. You have no need to worry for God will care/provide for you (Matt 6:25-34)
 - G. Being holy and blameless (Eph 5:27)
 - H. An inheritance: eternal salvation (Heb 9:15; 1:14)
 - I. Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (Eph 1:3); we are baptized into Christ (Rom 6:3-4)
 1. Grace (II Tim 2:1)
 2. Redemption (Rom 3:24)
 3. Salvation & eternal glory (II Tim 2:10)
 4. Sanctification (I Cor 1:2)
 5. Unity (Gal 3:28)
 6. The Church (Gal 1:22; Col 1:18-20; Eph 5:23)
 7. Love of God (Rom 8:39)

- IV. What responsibilities go with membership?
 - A. Paul painted a beautiful picture of what it means to be a member of the Church (Col 1:9-14)
 1. We are to be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding
 2. To walk in a manner worthy of the Lord

3. To please God in all respects
4. To bear fruit in every good work
 - a. Bear fruit for God (Rom 7:4)
 - b. Showing our faith through good works (James 2:14-18)
5. To increase in the knowledge of God
 - a. To study God's word (II Tim 2:15)
 - b. To grow spiritually (Heb 5:11-14; I Pet 2:1-2)
6. To be strengthened with all power according to His glorious might
 - a. For attaining all steadfastness and patience
 - b. Joyously giving thanks to the Father
- B. We are to be an active part of a local congregation just like the disciples of the 1st century (Acts 14:24-28; 13:1-3; 20:17-28)
 1. Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Heb 10:24)
 2. Do not forsake the assembly but encourage one another (Heb 10:25)
 3. Continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God (Heb 13:15-16)
 - a. Giving thanks to His name
 - b. Do not neglect doing good and sharing
 4. Obey Church leaders (I Pet 5:1-5) and submit to those who watch out for your souls (Heb 13:17)
- C. Contribute individually to the growth of the body/Church (Eph 4:15-16)
- D. Be united in Christ (I Cor 1:10) without divisions (Eph 4:1-3)
- E. We are to go into all the world and preach the gospel (Matt 28:19-20; Mark 16:15)
- F. Contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3)
- G. Be subject to rulers/authorities, be obedient and ready for every good deed, malign no one, be peaceful, gentle showing every consideration for all men (Titus 3:1-2)
- H. Take opportunities to do good to all men, especially Christians (Gal 6:10)
- I. I Thess 4:11-12, "and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need."