

Lesson 8 – Is Membership In a Church Essential?

(Chapter 8 of Jesus Loves the Church and So Should You)

Key Verse: Ephesians 3:10 – “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,”

1. Is church membership essential for salvation? _____
2. Is church membership essential for being brought into saving union? _____
3. Is church membership essential for gaining admission into heaven? _____

4. Is church membership essential for growth? _____
5. Is church membership essential for the church itself? _____

Membership as essential for:

1. G_____ in grace and obedience to the Word of God.

2. For the well-being of the c_____ itself.
 - a. Doctrinal integrity of the body. Matthew 7:28-29, Acts 2:42, 1 Timothy 4:16, Jude 3 and 4.
 - b. Preservation of unity in the body. 1 John chapter 1.
 - c. The ordering and governing of the congregation. 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1.

So why might people still be in opposition to church membership.

1. The phrase does not appear in the Word of God.
2. Church membership is legalistic.
3. Church membership isn't necessary.

Twenty-four “one another” passages. (see pages 59-60).

Paragraphs 13 and 14 from Chapter 26 of the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith:

13. No church members, upon any offence taken by them, having performed their duty required of them towards the person they are offended at, ought to disturb any church-order, or absent themselves from the assemblies of the church, or administration of any ordinances, upon the account of such offence at any of their fellow members, but to wait upon Christ, in the further proceeding of the church.

14. As each church, and all the members of it, are bound to pray continually for the good and prosperity of all the churches of Christ, in all places, and upon all occasions to further it (every one within the bounds of their places and callings, in the exercise of their gifts and graces) so the churches (when planted by the providence of God so as they may enjoy opportunity and advantage for it) ought to hold communion among themselves, for their peace, increase of love, and mutual edification.