

**Chapter 13 – What are the Responsibilities of Church Membership?**

**Chapter 14 – Is Church Attendance Really Important?**

1. Loyalty to the church. - 1 Thessalonians 2:13
2. Attendance at all church meetings. - Acts 2:42
3. Financial giving - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, Malachi 3:8-10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 8:9
4. Mutual ministry. - 1 Thessalonians 5:11-14.
5. Ministering to pastors and elders. - 1 Timothy 5:17-18
  
6. E\_\_\_\_\_ and witnessing. - Matthew 28:18-20.

Final thoughts on these chapters. Ephesians 6:13, Acts 2:42

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**Chapter 15 – What Is Required to be a Church Member?**

*Four Requirements and One Guiding Principle*

Key Verse: Acts 2:41-42 – “41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

1. R\_\_\_\_\_ and conversion. Mark 1:15 - And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.
  
2. A personal c\_\_\_\_\_ of faith. Acts 8:37.
  - a. Observable testimony of having faith.
  - b. Verifiable declaration that they are regenerated.
  
3. A g\_\_\_\_\_ life. 2 Corinthians 5:17.
  
4. B\_\_\_\_\_. Acts 2:41.
  
5. Unreserved c\_\_\_\_\_ to the church you are joining. Acts 2:42.

“One reason that there is so much confusion and lack of power in many churches scattered throughout the world is because they have ceased to maintain purity in their assemblies by forsaking divinely-appointed requirements for membership.” - Blackburn, page 122.

**Chapter 16 – How is a Christian Admitted into Membership? How is Membership Terminated?**

*Four Ways In, Four Ways Out*

Acts 4:4 “Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.”

Four ways a person can be brought into the membership:

- 1) Apply for baptism and membership as a new convert.
- 2) Transferring a letter of membership from a sister church of like faith and practice.
- 3) A baptized convert without a church
- 4) Biblical repentance from a flagrant sin that resulted in excommunication
  - a) For the records of both churches to be updated.
  - b) For the testimony of Christ to be maintained.
  - c) For the reputation of the disciplined person to be restored
  - d) For rejoicing to take place

Four ways a person can be brought into the membership:

- 1) By letter.
- 2) By excommunication.
- 3) By death.
- 4) By voluntary withdrawal.

*It is sometimes said that a church is a voluntary society. This is true in a sense and only with an explanation. It is true that no external force or authority can compel the relation of membership to be formed or dissolved. The church can compel no one to unite with it, nor can the individual oblige the body to receive him. But it is not true that it is a matter merely optional and indifferent whether or not a believer identifies himself with the household of faith. He is under moral obligation to do that. It is for his own spiritual good to do it. It is one of the appointed means of grace. The church needs his presence and influence, and the cause of truth is*

*furthered by a combination of Christian influence and effort. All are under law to Christ and are bound by sacred obligation to obey and please Him. He has ordained that His followers should associate themselves in those brotherhoods of faith and affection. A church, therefore, is more than a voluntary society. It is a society under law to Christ. Church membership, therefore, becomes a question of grave moment and should be carefully studied and well understood.<sup>67</sup>*