



**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
SELECTED SCRIPTURE
JANUARY 12, 2020
DR. ANDREW SCHWENK**



**CEFC Sermon-Based Growth Group
Week: January 12, 2020
Title: Membership Matters
Text: Selected Scripture**

Kick Starters...

1. What does it mean to be committed to something someone?
2. Why do we (even Christians) struggle with commitment in our lives? What makes it so difficult?

Entertain the text

3. Read the text out loud (if applicable/time allows) and discuss/list/ highlight any significant words or observations. Make notes in your Bible to help you recall anything important to revisit or pray over. Use cross-Scripture texts as is helpful.

Engage the text

4. How does local church membership open up and increase our ability to serve God and bless others more fully?
5. How does local church membership increase our appreciation for the biblical 'one anothers'?
6. How do the following 5 points become visible and active within a church who places a high emphasis on local church membership?
 - a. biblically addressing sin in the life of a brother/sister (Matt. 18:17)
 - b. willingly yielding and submitting to the defined spiritual leadership (Heb. 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13)
 - c. pastors/elders had a defined flock to care for (Acts 20:28)
 - d. removing someone from membership is only possible if they are a member (1st Cor. 5:12-13)
 - e. Each a crucial part of the larger whole (1st Cor. 12:12-31) body

Execute the Text

7. Pray together for the blessing of being a member of the local church and also for those who have not yet committed—that the Spirit of God will move them to see and understand what a great blessing and privilege it is to say "yes" to being identified as a member of the local church.

I. Introduction

Please consider: the people who will always care for you best over a lifetime are those who are willing to commit to such a relationship through church membership because theirs is a sacrificial, 'others'-focused love

II. The Early Church

Understanding the _____ of membership
Membership has _____

III. 5 Quick NT Points

- #1. _____ for Jesus
- #2. _____ for Jesus
- #3. _____ who know their sheep
- #4. _____ who's who within a local church
- #5. The _____ of Christ and all its members

IV. Conclusion

When we say, "I am with Jesus" or "I stand with Jesus" or "Jesus is my Lord" what that means is this: We are personally committing ourselves through local church membership to protect the reputation of Christ and minister to those members of our local church family by the grace of God.



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