

Basswood Church Membership Course
Week 1: CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

What is the Church?

- _____ (Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16-17)
- _____ (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27; Ephesians 4:12, 16)
- _____ (Ephesians 5:22-32; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7-8; 21:9)
- _____ (Matthew 26:31; John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28-30; 1 Peter 5:1-3)
- _____ (1 Peter 4:17; Hebrews 3:3, 6; and 1 Timothy 3:15)

Almost all of these images imply:

identifiable parts (_____) that work together (_____) and depend on each other (_____).

In the most basic sense, the Church is not a building or even a gathering. The Church is its members.

Is church membership biblical?

"Member" is a Biblical Word

oikeios - _____ (Eph 2:19)
summetochos - _____ (Eph 3:6)
melos - _____ (Rom 12:4; 1 Cor 6:15; Eph 4:25; 5:30; Col 3:15)

More reasons that church membership is biblical:

In Acts 2:37-47, _____.
In Acts 6:1-6, _____.
In Romans 16:1-16, _____.
In 1 Timothy 5:3-16, _____.
In 1 John 2:19, _____.
Throughout the New Testament, _____.
_____. (Acts 8:3; 11:22,26; 12:1, 5; 15:3,4; Romans 16:1,5,23; Philippians 4:15; Colossians 4:15-16; 1 & 2 Thessalonians 1:1; Philemon 1:2; 3 John 1:9)

At Basswood Church, though we will treat you like a part of the family whether or not you're a member, we believe that the commitment that membership makes matters.

Even More Reasons Church Membership is Biblical (and therefore matters):

- *The Bible commands Christian leaders to _____.* (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2)
- *The Bible commands Christians to _____.* (Hebrews 13:7,17)
- *The Bible commands Christians to _____.* (1 Corinthians 5)
- *A local church gives Christians a specific place to _____.* (Ephesians 4:11-16,25-32; Romans 12:3-8)
- *A local church gives Christians a specific place to _____.* (Ephesians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 16:16; 1 Peter 5:5; Matthew 18:15-20; John 14:15; 1 John 2:19; 4:20-21)

So, whether you have ever been compelled that the modern notion of church membership is a biblical requirement or not, **there are clear commands given to us in the Bible that require a response.** And, the way that Basswood Church lives out these commands is in the context of church membership.

If you are already a member of Basswood, or if you are not a member of this church, but are considering membership, or if you are a Christian who has been trying to get along without committing to membership at a church--we would ask that over the next several weeks as we work through our membership material, that you each:

1. *Pray for a more biblical view of the church and of church membership.*
2. *Pray and consider all of the commitments on the Church Covenant.*
3. *Pray that God would bring true and lasting revival to your own life and to Basswood Church.*
4. *If, at the end of our Membership course, you sense God leading you to unite in membership with Basswood, here's how to do that:*
 - Attend Membership Classes
 - Affirm your commitment through signing the Church Covenant
 - Interview with our elders