

I Am a Church Member: I Will Be a Functioning Church Member

Till Plains 4/17/2021

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Point 1 – Membership means we are all necessary parts of the whole.

Reference verses: 1 Corinthians 12:27-28

1. How does the biblical definition of membership differ from the world's definition?

Point 2 – Membership means we are different, but still work together.

Reference verse: 1 Corinthians 12:26

2. What is Paul trying to convey regarding church membership in this verse?

3. How would the church benefit from this idea if more attention were paid to the successes and failures of believers?

Point 3 – Membership means everything we say and do is based on the biblical foundation of love.

Reference verse: 1 Corinthians 13

4. Why is love the foundation of church membership?

“No matter how high the profession, he whose heart is not filled with love for God and his fellow men is not a true disciple of Christ.” – Ellen White, *Acts of the Apostles*, 318.

“The Lord desires me to call the attention of His people to the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians. Read this chapter every day, and from it obtain comfort and strength. Learn from it the value that God places on sanctified, heaven-born love, and let the lesson that it teaches come home to your hearts. Learn that Christlike love is of heavenly birth, and that without it all other qualifications are worthless.” – Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, July 21, 1904.

“This chapter is an expression of the obedience of all who love God and keep His commandments. It is brought into action in the life of every true believer.” – Ellen White, *Letter 156*, 1900.

Point 4 – Church membership is functioning membership.

Reference verse: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

5. Why doesn't the country club model work as a valid example for church membership?

6. What does being a functioning church member mean to you?

Conclusion:

7. Will you be a functioning church member?

8. If yes, how will you be a functioning church member?
