

# MEANINGFUL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

*A short guide on the importance, relevance,  
and intention of Church Membership*

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DEFINED...

- ❖ a church member is a baptized believer who has intentionally & publicly joined a specific group of believers under specific leadership to consistently meet together to worship the Lord, encourage one another in the faith, and reach out to the world with the good news of Jesus.
- ❖ In Acts 2:42-47, we see many of the activities that church members are to be committed to doing together. These things include worship, sharing, fellowship, teaching, and prayer.

## BEING A CHURCH MEMBER IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE...

### ❖ **IT IS TAUGHT IN SCRIPTURE**

- Acts 20:28 – pastors are to know and care for their flock.
- Acts 2:41 – when people responded to the gospel in faith and were baptized, they were “counted” as a part of the church.
- 1 Cor. 5:1-5 – the unrepentant sinner is to be “removed” from the church... how can you be removed from something that you don’t actually belong to?
- Hebrews 13:17 – Christians are to obey their leaders and to submit to them. What leader are you to obey if you’re not in a flock with specific pastors?
- Many New Testament letters were written to specific congregations illustrating a deep commitment to belonging to a church in a specific place with specific leaders.

### ❖ **IT PROTECTS YOU**

- Acts 20:29-30 – believers are protected from spiritual deceivers by being in a flock with faithful pastors. We are consistently compared to sheep who find safety in the flock.
- Hebrews 3:13 – we see that we are protected from the deceitfulness of sin by being in a community that exhorts one another.

### ❖ **IT GIVES YOU A PLACE TO LOVE AND SERVE**

- 1 Corinthians 12 – we are compared to a body where all the different parts need the service and ministry of one another.
- 1 Corinthians 13 – we see that we are able to fulfill our calling to love in community with other believers.

## BECOMING A CHURCH MEMBER...

- ❖ There are two requirements for becoming a church member
  - **GENUINE CONVERSION** – I must respond to the gospel of Jesus by repenting of my sin and trusting in Jesus alone for forgiveness.
  - **BELIEVER’S BAPTISM** – We believe that every Christian is commanded by Christ to express their faith in Christ for salvation through the symbol of believer’s baptism.
- ❖ How to join First Baptist Church
  - **BAPTISM** - As a new believer, I join the church by way of baptism.
  - **STATEMENT OF FAITH/TRANSFER BY LETTER** - If I am coming into membership as an already baptized believer, then I must meet with a pastor to confirm my trust in Christ and understanding of what church membership means and then publicly express my faith in Christ and desire to be a church member. A letter requesting a transfer of membership will be sent to the congregation where this person’s membership has previously been.