Goals for this study:

• To critically examine what it means to be a church member, from God’s point of view.

• To generate ideas that will help ALL church members become more engaged in the life of the church and ministry.

• To facilitate discussion on barriers to effective church ministry by all members.

• Book Author: Thom Rainer

• PowerPoint Inspired by: Dr. Kevin Swann, Pastor - Ivy Baptist Church
I am committed to having a new or renewing my attitude about our church.

I will seek to put the needs of others before my own needs.

I will not be a part of the problem, but a part of the solution.

I will seek to be a unified member of our church.
Questions

- What exactly in your opinion are the biggest reasons why church members (as a whole) don’t get more involved in the church ministry?
Secular Membership is about:

- The **AMENITIES** you enjoy as a member.
- What **PERKS** you get.
- Rights instead of **RESPONSIBILITIES**.
- Tithes and offering viewed as “**DUES**” which entitle me to certain things as a “**MEMBER**.”
- Many people have this view of church membership which is **WRONG**.
Biblical Membership is about:

- The **FUNCTION** and **ROLE** of each member.
- The “**WHOLE**” (body) and the individual parts (arms, legs, etc.).
- All “**PARTS**” doing their parts so that the “**WHOLE**” can function in a healthy manner.
Biblical Membership is about:

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-20
- Many members, but **ONE** body.
- A body is made up of many **PARTS**; not just one **PART**, but many.
- The key to the body: It is **UNITED** and it is **DIVERSE**.
- **LOVE** is the glue that keeps the body together (1Cor 13).
Biblical Membership is about:

• 1 Corinthians 13

• Agape love = **UNCONDITIONAL** love.

• We have to **CHOOSE** to love (people can be hard to love).

• We must **SERVE** each other and give.

• Love should be based on **MOTIVES** and **ACTIONS**.
Summary Points:

• How to remain a “MEMBER” of a secular organization?
  ~Pay your DUES and you will be served.

• How to remain a BIBLICAL member of the church?
  ~Give abundantly and SERVE without hesitation; with NO STRINGS ATTACHED.
Summary Points:

• Most **CHURCHES** are over inflated by a factor of three.

• Example: 300 on the church roll = about 100 actual **BIBLICAL** members.
Summary Points:

• What can the church (collectively and individually) do to **ENCOURAGE** and **MOTIVATE** more church members to get involved?

~It starts with an **INDIVIDUAL** assessment.
Closing Discussion Questions:

• Explain how country club membership and church membership are so different. Give scriptural references to support the differences in church membership.
Closing Discussion Questions:

• Explain why church membership is a biblical concept, using 1Corinthians 12 as your biblical foundation.
Closing Discussion Questions:

• How is the love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, related to church membership? Explain using all 13 verses of the chapter.
Closing Discussion Questions:

• How are the different parts of the body (ear, nose, mouth, hand, foot, eyes, etc.) related to church membership? How do the parts play out in your church?
Closing Discussion Questions:

• In relation to church membership, why is it important for members to know and use their spiritual gifts? Relate your answer to 1 Corinthians 12.
Chapter 1 Pledge:

Because I am a member of the body of Christ, I must be a functioning member, whether I am an “eye,” an “ear,” or a “hand.” As a functioning member I will give. I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others. I will remember that if one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. (1Cor 12:26).
I am A Church Member - Thom Rainer

Chapter 1: I Will be a Functioning Church Member

Next Week:

Chapter 2

I Will be a Unifying Church Member
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