

What's the Big Deal About Church Membership?



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

March 18, 2018

Edward Church



ekklesia
the church



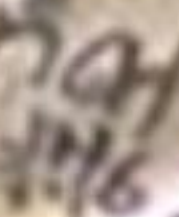
ekklesia

the church

Ekklesia is the original Greek word for "church."

Ekklesia means "the called-out ones."

- **It denotes being called out of something (the world)...
...and into something else (the church)**
- **We cannot be called out of one thing without...
...being called into another.**

Whoever
believes in
Him shall
not perish
but have
eternal
life. 



It Identifies You W- a Local Body of Believers

Soldiers wear an ID tag necklace (or “dog tag”).

- This tag identified the soldier and where he served**

Much in the same way, membership is your ID tag.

- It identifies you with a group of believers /common doctrines.**
- The world needs to know where you stand.**
- Church membership helps make that statement.**



A landscape photograph featuring rolling hills under a dramatic, sunset-colored sky. In the foreground, a grassy hill is visible, topped with a simple wooden cross. The word "Commitment" is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters, with the cross serving as the plus sign between "Comm" and "ment".

Comm+ment

It Identifies Your Commitment

Our Culture Teaches Limited Commitment...

..marriage, friendship, job, school, or country

- **Christ is ALL ABOUT COMMITMENT (Eph. 5:25)**
 - **Membership speaks of Your Commitment**
- **It Provides Opportunity for your Spiritual Family to...**
 - ...support, pray, encourage each other in the Lord**
- **It Helps you Face Life's Problems by Providing the Support...**
 - ...Encouragement of other Christians as well.**



FAM
Jesuis

It Identifies You as a Team Player

Membership = Covenant

One part of that Covenant emphasizes the importance of...

...working together for kingdom purposes.

...no place for a “lone ranger.”

- The church family becomes God’s laboratory for us...
...to learn how to get along and work together as a family.**
- In this environment we practice unselfish / unconditional love.
...we learn to care for others, nurture each other
...and the opportunity to practice teamwork.**

(1 Cor. 12:26; 1 John 3:16)

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.”

(1 Corinthians 12:4-6)



It Helps to Identify Your Giftings

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And

Membership enables us to develop and use our giftings.

- Each of us has a unique role
- Our gifting then helps us carry out God’s purpose (1 Cor. 12:7).
- Jesus said, “I will build my church” (Matt 16:18).
- He builds it when people commit themselves to use their giftings to advance the Kingdom of God *with* others.



ACCOUNTABLE

== TO GOD & OTHERS ==

Galatians 5:25-6:5

It Identifies Accountability

ACCOUNTABLE

== TO GOD & OTHERS ==

We are expected to contribute w- the resources God has given us,

- **not only our tithes and offerings**
- **but also our time and talents**

We accept this accountability when we become members,

- **provides a tangible way to cooperate with God.**
- **builds character and inspires faith.**

Such accountability strengthens the church family...

... we show that we can be counted on.

A blue puzzle with one piece missing, symbolizing belonging. The puzzle is set against a dark blue background with a subtle gradient. The missing piece is a dark blue square, creating a void in the center. The text "YOU BELONG" is written in a white, serif font with a black outline, centered over the puzzle. The overall image conveys a message of inclusion and finding one's place.

YOU
BELONG