



Membership Matters
Series Bible Study—Part 1
From September 2024 Sermons

Read *1 Corinthians 12:24-27*

Overview of First Three Series Sermons: We are witnessing a new generational trend of moving away from formal church membership. Sadly, the Churches have caved, and many are no longer requiring it or offering it. The church culture is plagued with consumerism, church hopping, & floating. This is not Christ's design but is from the world. It carries great consequences. Most don't want accountability in morality, finances, and their calendar. They fully believe they can do Christianity better at home—or anywhere outside of the local church.

1. Why does membership matter? Because Christ saved us, and God adopted us into an intimate spiritual family. We are also called the bride of Christ, and the branches connected to the vine/tree. Just as our physical bodies rely on all the other parts to function and stay healthy, so to in the Body of Christ.

2. What is the current trend regarding formal church membership? A mass movement away from joining the local church. The culture is loving this = "See, we were right?"

2a. For the last 4 years, what's the trend regarding even regular, committed church attendance? Also a dramatic drop as people are staying home and watching church/their church online.

See *Hebrews 10:23-25*

3. If we are not (mainly) fellowshiping with the family of God, the only other option is fellowship with The World. See James 4:4

3a. Does that mean we form a "holy huddle" and have no contact with the world/culture? Not at all. We are ambassadors in a foreign land. They are the mission field. It has to do with time, treasure, and influence.

See also *1 Corinthians 5:9-10*

4. In what three main spheres has God ordained and established authority and submission?

- The Home—*Ephesians 5:22-23 & 6:1-3*
- Human Government—*Romans 13:1-7*
- The Church—*Hebrews 13:17*

5. How does the world view this submission? They hate it. They see it as suppression, oppression, and archaic. What does the Bible say about submission? God designed it for our blessing and protection. We need accountability while in these sinful, fallen bodies. If the world hates it, that should tell us something.

6. In what ways does formal church membership further identify a believer? It proclaims to the outside world our commitment to Christ, His Body, other believers, and to the Scriptures. Discuss.

New Heights Membership Materials: Questions & Clarifications on topic for those three weeks.
Doctrinal Statement, Ordinances, Reformed Theology, & Distinctives.