

THE MARCH CONTINUES...FOLLOW ME
"Membership in God's Family...Why It Matters"
Matthew 16:13-18 (Pew Bible Page 694)
1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 26-31 (Pew Bible Page 813)

IN THE BODY OF CHRIST...MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Many think of "Church" as...

A BUILDING

AN ACTIVITY

AN ORGANIZATION

The Bible speaks of "Church" as...

A BODY

A FAMILY

It matters because only two things last forever...

THE WORD OF GOD

THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Membership into the family of God is a commitment

"In Christ, we who are many form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:5

IN THE BODY OF CHRIST...MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

"Let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers."
Galatians 6:10

1. It identifies you as a **GENUINE BELIEVER**

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" John 13:35

"Now you are no longer strangers to God...but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other believer." Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

2. It provides you a Spiritual Family for **SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT**

"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:1-2

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25

3. It gives you a place to discover and use your **SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN SERVICE**
1 Corinthians 12:4-27

4. It places you under the **SPIRITUAL PROTECTION OF GODLY LEADERS**

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you."
Hebrews 13:17

"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock." Acts 20:28-29

5. It gives you the accountability **YOU NEED TO GROW**

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Ephesians 5:21

IN THE BODY OF CHRIST...MEMBERSHIP HAS A PURPOSE

1. **BELIEVE IN JESUS**

"They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.'" Acts 16:31

2. **BELONG TO HIS FAMILY**

"You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household" Ephesians 2:19

3. **BECOME LIKE HIM**

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers" Romans 8:29

CLASS 101: Discovering Membership at JIBC
"...you belong in God's household with every other Christian"