

What Are We Doing Here?

Part 5



Membersheep

Introduction

Any kind of group you can be involved in has some kind of list of required activities that you must do in order to be considered a member in good standing of that group. I was in Cub/Boy Scouts. Had to attend meetings, progress through merit badges, etc. If you didn't really want to be there or do it but you did it anyway, you did it out of compulsion. If you wanted to be there and wanted to do those activities, you did it out of sincerity if not love.

Golf vs Improv.

Some people treat church like I treat golf. Others treat church like I treat improv. What is the difference? Is it the activity? Is it the group? Or is it the attitude and outlook? It's the attitude and outlook.

You don't have to be a Christian. If you don't want to be a part of a church then don't be a Christian. But, if you call yourself a Christian, a disciple of Jesus, then you will want to, with sincerity, with a right attitude and a right outlook, with love, want to be a part of a church, a body part/member. "But sometimes I don't want to go to church, I don't want to serve, I don't want to go to prayer, etc." Granted. [There are times/seasons when you have to discipline yourself to do and to be even the thing you love.](#) Ask any golfer.

Ingression

This is why we are called disciples; disciplined ones. This is one of those studies where the preacher could come off like a real jerk, like I'm challenging your commitment to Jesus or your salvation. I don't want this to be that. Instead, I want to inspire you to be a jerk to yourself, to challenge your own commitment to Jesus, to do what scripture says and make your calling firm. In a sense we are going to talk about what it means to be a Christian, in the sense of doing. Specifically we are going to talk about what it means to be membersheep.

Inspiration

Series review. This is both a "what are we" and a "doing here" study.

[2] Talked about the gospel that qualifies us all for being a part/member of a church.

[3] Talked about what the church is; a body. An interconnected and interdependent collection of people who embody Jesus on earth.

[4] The last two weeks we talked about doctrine, the die-fors and divide-fors as shown in scripture.

[5] Last week we talked about leadersheep and their responsibilities to the church, and how they are also part of the church body.

Ingression

Today going to talk about the obligations of the membersheep to the church which is the rest of the body, including the leadersheep. In a way, think of these as marriage vows. These things should be a given, yet when life hits the fan we need to be reminded of what we signed up for.

Membersheep

Ideation

[6] I have read and understood The Exchange Church's doctrinal statement and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace ([Ephesians 4:1-3](#); [Hebrews 13:7, 17](#)). [Doesn't mean questions can't be asked, differences discussed. It means, when it comes down to it, this is who we are. Instead of trying to convert us, find another body that fits better.](#)

[7] I will to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues ([Psalm 119](#), [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)). [What the world thinks, our opinions, our feelings, all come second to what God says. His word settles the differences.](#)

[8] I will maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and other such spiritual disciplines. My relationship will be evident through my participation in weekly worship services, communion, The Exchange Church community, service, and a life that glorifies Jesus (Psalm 105:1-6, 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25, 2 Peter 1:2-4). In other words, be a disciple of Jesus that is part of this body. Jewish discipleship review, thing with honey on Torah on up to disciples being chose.

[9] I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure. This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Proverbs 3:9-10; Romans 12:1-8; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Ephesians 4:1-16, 5:15-21; 1 Peter 4:10-11). Areas of service sheet.

Preface with prescribe, describe, and silent Biblical contexts.

[10] As a demonstration of my commitment to this local church body, I will not function in leadership in another church. I will also put the fellowship and ministry opportunities of this church ahead of those provided by other churches or Christian groups, so as to reinforce the interdependence and interconnectedness of our church.. If you're going to be a part of a church, then be a part of that church. Body part body hopping?

[11] I will to submit to discipline by God through His Holy Spirit, to follow Biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise (Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 2 Corinthians 2:5-8; Galatians 6:1-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Titus 1:9, 3:10-11; Hebrews 12:5-11). Part of being a disciples is being corrected when you are doing it wrong. Discipleship involves relationship. It also involves submission, but not lording it over. Follow the leader.

[12] I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin so that I could live a new life (2 Corinthians 5:17). [13] I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, and fornication (Job 31:1; Proverbs 5; Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 6:9 - 7:16; Hebrews 13:4). [14] I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible, my pastors, and my conscience dictate (Romans 14, 1 Corinthians 8; Galatians 5:19-21). [15] Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death (Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:16-18, 24-25; Colossians 3:5; 1 John 1:6-10). Personal vs private life is false distinction. Personal relationship with Jesus that is lived out in community. God has always been about group relationships. Let us make man... I will be their God, they will be My people... Tabernacle, temple, all about coming together with Him as an individual and a group.

Interconnection

This whole thing has been one application after another. Yet it seems the question remains, how do I, how do we do this? By the power of the Holy Spirit, the nuclear power reactor in us that produces love for God and God's love for people.

Imploration

James 4:1-10 (Spirit is jealous). 1 Peter 1:22-23 (demonstrated by love for brethren, demonstration of being born again). 1 John 3:23-24 (it is the Spirit that empowers us to obey the command to love).

Just as a human body without a Spirit is dead, so is the body of Christ with out the Holy Spirit. All the right parts may be there, it may be all dressed up, But it's still dead. Weekend At Bernie's. Is that you? Is that me? Is that our church?

This is one of those studies where the preacher could come off like a real jerk, like I'm challenging your commitment to Jesus or your salvation. I don't want this to be that. Instead, I want to inspire you to be a jerk to yourself, to challenge your own commitment to Jesus, to do what scripture says and make your calling firm.

Seek the Lord.