

**“Whom should the church accept into membership/ .**

The church should accept all whom Christ has accepted through salvation. Although many churches are much demanding than this, they will only accept into their membership those who agree with the church on some secondary doctrines. John 6:35-37, Revelation 22:17

**Organization vs. Organism**

We also need to see that the church is not an organization but an organism. But what is the difference between an organism and an organization? We can illustrate this by considering a chair and our physical body.

A chair is considered an organization of lifeless material, but our physical body has life. Thus, it is an organism. Life makes our body an organism. The church is the {Body of Christ}, and as an organism it depends upon life. John 1:4, Colossians 3:4.

We must see that the church is a live entity. It is not something formed by teaching or by organizing. We cannot form, organize, or establish a church by our teachings, regardless of how spiritual they are. Matthew 16:18.

**Organization**

The term "organization" of the church refers to how the church is set up or organized. Should it have committees, or boards? Who picks the local preacher, deacons, and elders? How do local churches cooperate to achieve its common goals?

**What does church membership entail?**

**The Bible teaches that these are essential characteristics of a Christians life.**

James 1:26-27; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 10:29-37, I Timothy 3:15.

1) Membership is a commitment to seek to live by the church's covenant.

You may be a member here but have forgotten that in our constitution there is a church covenant that you agreed to seek to live in accordance with. I suggest that you read it over from time to time! None of us comply perfectly, but it should be our aim.

2) Membership is a commitment to participate regularly in the church's gatherings for worship, teaching, and fellowship.

Sunday morning is our main time to gather for teaching and worship. Fellowship also happens there, but also should take place in smaller settings during the week, as well as at church-wide socials. Hebrews 10:25.

3) Membership is a commitment to the church's members, to give and receive loving service and to help one another grow in Christ.

The church will only be healthy to the extent that every member is committed to using his or her gifts to reach the lost and disciple the saved Romans 12:3-21; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter. 4:10-11.

4) Membership is a commitment to believe in and uphold the church's doctrine and practices, including church discipline whenever necessary.

In some areas, where godly believers differ, we allow for differing viewpoints. But we all must agree on, grow in understanding, and uphold the essential teachings and practices of the faith. Galatians 6:10

5) Membership is a commitment to follow the church's leadership as they seek to help you grow in Christ. They should be men who are seeking the Lord and seeking to be faithful shepherds of His flock. Acts 20:28; Hebrews. 13:17; 1 Peter. 5:2-3.