

The Necessity of Church Membership

Eph. 5:22-32

Introduction:

- A. Membership is generally considered important to people's lives, but unnecessary to their salvation.
 - 1. If one means "denominational affiliation" – neither important nor necessary, but sinful.
 - 2. If one means "members of the body" – both important and necessary (1 Cor. 12:20-27).
- B. Necessity of membership seen from certain *connections* to the church.

Discussion:

I. The Connection Between *Christ* and the Church.

- A. The church is the body of Christ (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22,23)
- B. The church is the kingdom of Christ (Matt. 16:18, 19; Acts 2:30-33; Eph. 1:20-23).
- C. The church is the wife of Christ (Eph. 5:22-32)
- D. "In Christ" and "in the church" is the same relationship.
 - 1. Reconciled in Christ and church (2 Cor. 5:18; Eph. 2:16)
 - 2. Baptized into Christ and church (Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13)
 - 3. Paul persecuted Christ and church (Acts 9:5; 8:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:9)

II. The Connection Between *Salvation* and the Church.

- A. Seen from the make up of the church.
 - 1. Made up of saved people (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23).
 - 2. Made up of redeemed people (1 Pet. 1:18-19; Acts 20:28).
 - 3. Made up of people enrolled in heaven (Heb. 12:23; Rev. 21:27).
 - 4. Made up of God's family or household (1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 2:19).
- B. Seen from the various results of baptism.
 - 1. Baptized into family of God (Gal. 3:26,27).
 - 2. Baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13).
 - 3. Baptized into church (1 Cor. 12:13).
 - 4. Baptized after meeting prerequisites.
 - a. Faith (Mark 16:16).
 - b. Repentance (Acts 2:38).
 - c. Confession (Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37)

Conclusion:

- A. Many privileges of membership – same as in Christ (Eph. 1:3).
- B. Many responsibilities of membership.
 - 1. Walk in new life.
 - 2. Local membership (Acts 9:26) – assemble, worship & work together.