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).
      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).
         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.