



Central Text: 1 Timothy 3:14-15

Membership in a local church matters because it is God's DESIGN for me to be SUBMITTED to and be part of the life of a local community, so that I can be SHAPED for His glory and become more like Jesus.

1 | MEMBERSHIP SIGHTINGS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- a) Believers and leaders in a local context
(Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 5:17)

- b) Commands given to elders
(1 Peter 5:1-5)

- c) Church discipline
(1 Corinthians 5:1-13)

- d) Recipients of New Testament Letters

- e) The "One Another" passages

- f) Other Passages
(Acts 2, 1 Timothy 5:3-16; Acts 6:1-7; Romans 16:1-16)

2 | WHY JOIN A LOCAL CHURCH

You really don't join a church, you SUBMIT to one.

a) Obedience

b) Protection

(1 Peter 5:8; Hebrews 3:13; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; Acts 20:28-30)

c) Spiritual Gifts

(1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-16)

d) Participation in the Lord's Supper

e) Your sanctification depends on it

3 | BIBLICAL MEMBERSHIP

When we talk about membership we employ language that is found in the Bible about **covenant**. A covenant is a binding promise. In some covenants, one party binds themselves to fulfill the obligations of both sides of the agreement. That is what God has done in his covenant with his people.

In other covenants, the parties are reciprocally bound to adhere to the obligations. The local church membership covenant is like this. If at any time one of the parties of the church covenant continues in a state of unfaithfulness to its provisions, the other is released from certain obligations.

Membership Resources and application will be available on Wednesday, September 18 on our website. <http://sentchurch.tv>