

Church Membership

The word “member” has been devalued! It’s used in the modern world for all sorts of clubs and associations. As Christians we’re NOT just called to be members of a spiritual club, but members (parts) of a body – the body of Christ

²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²⁷Now **you are the body of Christ**, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12v20&27

When we become a Christian by putting our faith in Jesus Christ, we become part of the body of Christ and part of the universal church. But God’s plan for us is that we’re also added to a local church – a local expression of the universal church.

Obviously only those who have been born again (members of the universal church) should be members of the local church. Acts 2v41&47b

However, being or becoming a member means **more than just attending** a church – **it is about commitment to the local church**: to its leadership, other church members, and to the beliefs, practices and mission of the church.

**Just as living together does not make a marriage,
or lodging in a house doesn’t make you family,
just attending church does not make you a member of a local church.**

Just in case you think church leaders get out of these responsibilities... Leaders are members too! And so, individual leaders are subject to authority of the other leaders.

As church members, we’re called to

1. Protect the unity of the church

...by acting in love toward other members *John 13:34-35*

...by refusing to gossip *Ephesians 4:29*

...by following the leaders, speaking to them if we have a problem *Hebrews 13:17*

It’s the leader’s responsibility to lead in the direction Christ wants,
and not to ask members to do anything except what the Lord asks them to do.

...by dealing with relationship problems biblically *Matthew 18:15-17*

...by caring for other members in practical ways *1 John 3:17-18*

2. Share in the challenge to make disciples

...by praying for the church’s growth *Matthew 28:18-20*

...by expressing God’s love to others *Matthew 5:14-17*

...by looking for opportunities to share the gospel *1 Peter 3:15*

...by inviting non-Christians to come to church where they can hear more of the good news of Jesus and see Jesus in our lives *Mark 2:3-5*

3. Serve God in the role He gives us in the church

...by developing a servant’s heart *Mark 10:42-45*

...by discovering our gifts and talents *1 Timothy 4:14*

...by being equipped to serve *Ephesians 4:11-13*

...by involvement in service *1 Peter 4:10-11*

...by encouraging others in their service *1 Thessalonians 5:11-14*

4. Support the work of the church

...by following Jesus and living a godly life *1 John 2:6*

...by holding to Biblical truth – not believing in or sharing error *2 Timothy 3:14-17*

...by attending church meetings if possible *Hebrews 10:24-25*

...by giving regularly *2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

What kind of church would my church be, if all of it’s members were just like me?

What kind of church would we like Mallow Street to be? Let’s aim, with the Holy Spirit’s power to be the kind of members and so the kind of church that the Lord calls us to be.