



THE MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

An Introduction to the concept of Membership

One of the most frequently asked questions in the Church today is "Why Join?"

We clearly live in an age of non-joiners. Many are baby-boomers who are not only less than neutral about joining, but have an inherent distrust of the "system" which prevents them from joining.

The last decade has given them many reasons not to trust "organized religion," so it is our responsibility to reshape their thinking by offering a positive and productive model of membership in the local church.

The question still remains "Why join?" "The answer is commitment. The Christian church is desperately lacking in commitment by her people, commitment both to Christ and His church (His Kingdom). This is reflected in lack of tithes, church hopping, and lack of ministry involvement.

It's true, when someone becomes a Christian they become an automatic "member" in the kingdom of God. So joining the church has nothing to do with salvation or eternal life. But the church does represent the place of spiritual growth for the believer. The church is the God ordained place of spiritually gifted ministry by those who are a part of the team. All teams require commitment. Professional athletes don't collect paychecks without playing ball. (Well most of them!)

This certainly is not works-righteousness. We are saved by faith alone. But this is "team-ball." That is the central commitment we are to make. The new members sign up to "play ball" on the ministry team.

This two-hour membership class, though broad in its scope, converges on the central theme of commitment to Christ and the ministry.

A. STEPS TO JOINING THE CORNERSTONE TEAM

1. Attend the membership class
2. Participate in a New Members' Reception and receive the "right hand of fellowship at a Sunday Service."

B. CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

1. You must be born again with evidence of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and diligently seeking to live a holy and spirit-filled life.
2. Christian baptism (After born again experience) One of two Protestant sacraments, communion and baptism. We believe in a believer's baptism. It's an outward sign of an inward faith. You are making a public declaration of your faith in Jesus Christ.
3. Acceptance of Cornerstone's doctrinal statements.