

# Church Membership

# Membership in the Church Universal

# The Church Universal

- This is the church Jesus promised to build – Matt. 16:18
- Composed of those called out by the gospel for salvation – 2 Thess. 2:14
- It is the body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23
  - There is only one body or one church – Eph. 4:4
  - Made up of all Christians who individually submit their lives to Christ—the head of the body – 1 Cor. 12:27; Col. 1:8

# Membership Privileges

- Jesus saves those in His body, the church – Eph. 5:23
- Those in Christ's body are the redeemed and forgiven – Eph. 1:7
- Those in Christ are blessed with all the spiritual blessings from God – Eph. 1:3

# Membership Obligations

- Meet requirements of salvation and be added by the Lord – Acts 2:36; Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 6:3; Acts 2:40-41, 47
- Must remain connected to Jesus – Jn. 15:1-2, 5-6
- Must do one's part to help the body grow – Eph. 4:16
- Must find their job in Christ and do it – Rom. 12:5-8
- Must love the brotherhood (all Christians) – 1 Pet. 3:8

# Membership in the Local Church

# The Church Local

- Group of Christians in a location that agree to work together in doing the Lord's work
  - Vast number of local churches – Rom. 16:16, 19; Acts 9:31
  - Assemble to worship and do works as a church – Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 14:26; 2 Cor. 11:7; Phil. 4:15-16
- Membership in a local church is indicated – Col. 4:9; Rom. 16:1

# Membership Privileges

- Connection with your spiritual family – 1 Tim. 5:1-2
- Connection with mature brethren who can strengthen and encourage – Heb. 10:24-25; Gal. 6:1
- Mutual comfort in Christ – 2 Cor. 1:3-4
- Prayers of the brethren – Jas. 5:14-16



# Membership Obligations

- Seek membership and be accepted into fellowship – Acts 8:38-39; 9:26-27
- Assemble with the saints – Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25
- Bear one another's burdens – Gal. 6:2
- Exhort and encourage one another as much as possible – Heb. 3:12-14
- Serve one another with the abilities we have – 1 Pet. 4:9-11
- Care for one another and seek peace – 1 Thess. 5:13-15
- Take decisive action against rebellious brethren – 2 Thess. 3:6

# Conclusion

- Church membership is a valuable and necessary goal for all Christians
- Church membership in...
  - The church universal is gained when God adds you after believing the gospel and obeying it in confession, repentance, and baptism.
  - The local church is to follow for all Christians through seeking to join the disciples and by mutual consent to work together
- Are you a member of the Lord's church and a local church belonging to Christ?