

THE POWER OF BELONGING

The Treasure

Reference: Miscellaneous Scripture

Pastor Daniel Flynn

When we look at the biblical perspective of the gift of church membership, we realize quickly that it is indeed a treasure!

The Way to the Way

References: **Acts 3:19; Revelation 3:20; Acts 3:19-20; Ephesians 2:8-9**

When we receive the gift of salvation, we become part of the body of Christ. Right before the apostle Paul notes some of the gifts of the Spirit, he writes these words:

Reference: **1 Corinthians 12:27-28**

You received a gift, the free gift of eternal salvation. That gift includes eternal salvation. It includes forgivingness of sins by Christ's death on the cross. It includes adoption by God the Father. It includes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And it includes becoming a part of the body of Christ.

Universal Church or Local Church?

The universal church and the local church are not mutually exclusive. To the contrary, the majority of the New Testament books are written about and to local churches.

What's the point? It's a lame and invalid excuse to say you will limit your involvement to the universal church. The Bible is clear that we are to be connected to a specific church in a specific context.

Consider the Gift

Church membership is a gift and it should not be taken for granted. As a result of the 'gift', we should always be thankful for it. And when we are thankful for something, we have less time and energy to be negative!

When we receive the gift with the appreciation it deserves, we naturally will desire to respond to the Giver of that gift.

Joy of our Salvation = Service to God

Healthy church membership means you find your joy in being last, instead of seeking your way and being first!

Reference: **Matthew 20:26-28**

Church Membership is a gift. It is a treasure.

How do we respond?

Gratitude!

And one key way we express our gratitude is to serve like Jesus did and like He told us to do!