

THE POWER OF BELONGING

The Biblical Church Member

Reference: **1 Corinthians 12:12-20**

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For far too many, membership is about receiving instead of giving. So what does the Bible say about church membership?

- I. A great place to settle when looking at church membership is **1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14.**
 - A. Chapter 12 Paul is giving a great metaphor for the church being a body with many members.
 - B. Chapter 13 emphasizes love as the central attitude and action all members should have.
 - C. Chapter 14 goes back to the messed-up church at Corinth that has the idea of membership all wrong!

References: **1 Corinthians 12:27-28; 12**

- II. We are not all alike, yet we all still work together!
 - A. EVERYONE has a role or a function.
 - B. All of us are different, but in the body, all are necessary parts of the whole body; therefore, every part has to do its work, otherwise, the whole body suffers!Reference: **1 Corinthians 12:26**

- III. Everything we say and do is based on a biblical foundation of love!
 - A. 1 Corinthians is known as the “Love” Chapter.
 - 1. The original meaning or teaching intended for these verses was to demonstrate just how church members are to relate to one another!
 - 2. If we could just abide by the principles of the love chapter, we would have a completely healthy church!!!
 - 3. Love is patient.
 - Love is kind.
 - Love does not envy.
 - Love is not boastful.
 - Love is not conceited.
 - Love does not act improperly.
 - Love is not selfish.
 - Love is not provoked.
 - Love does not keep record of wrongs.

B. Church membership is founded on love - authentic, biblical, unconditional love!

- IV. Church membership is a functioning membership.
 - A. To remain a biblical member of the church, we give abundantly and serve without hesitation.
 - Reference: Chapter 12
 - 1. The body is a unified whole. Likewise, the church is to be unified in its mission, purposes, ministries, and activities.
 - 2. The body is made up of many parts. Each of these parts is supposed to function.
 - B. We who are the church members are all supposed to function in the church. The concept of an inactive church member is an oxymoron.

Today is a day made for commitments.

Are you ready to commit to be a member
the way the Bible speaks, and the way God designed it?

Are you willing to commit to giving cheerfully and abundantly?
Are you committing to serving and ministering without hesitation?

Are you committed to becoming a functioning church member?

Based on the book by Tom Rainer, ‘I AM A CHURCH MEMBER.’