

# YOU NEED BIBLICAL MEMBERSHIP

## 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-2, 12:12-31

### CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

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#### BIBLICAL MEMBERSHIP

(From [12 Traits of a Biblical Church](#))

A church is characterized by biblical membership. The members consist only of people who give credible evidence of repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who have been baptized as believers. Biblical church members are committed to one another to assemble faithfully together with one another and to be the body of Christ to one another. Every follower of Christ biblically and practically needs to be a member of a local church. This means far more than merely having one's name on a roll somewhere. Biblically, this means identifying oneself as a part of a local body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) that is committed to being and doing all that Christ has called His church to be and do. Practically, this means MBC must have strong processes for affirming and equipping followers of Christ as members of His church.

#### SCRIPTURE READING

##### **1 Corinthians 1:1-2 ESV**

*1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes 2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:*

##### **1 Corinthians 12:12-31 ESV**

*12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves[d] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

*14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts,[e] yet one body.*

*21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

*27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts.*

*And I will show you a still more excellent way.*

#### SERMON RECAP

Church: a group of people who commit together to be and do all that God says a church is and does.

You need a clear, loving commitment to biblical membership in a local church.

1. You need a body where you belong. (1 Corinthians 12)

2. You need leaders who care for you and whom you gladly follow. (Hebrews 13:7, 17)
3. You need people who will keep you from sin and yourself. (Matthew 18:15-17)

## ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What is the most interesting organization, club, or group that you have ever been a member of? How does one become a member of that group? How does one stop being a member of that group?

## DISCUSSION QUESTION

### *What does the passage say?*

1. Ask a member of the group to read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 aloud. Take some time to share what you observe about the passage. Try not to move into interpretation or application quite yet. You might have a member explain the passage in their own words.
  - What is the metaphor used to describe the church?
  - What does the passage say about weaker parts of the body?
  - What does the passage say about suffering?
  - From this passage, list some examples of spiritual gifts God has appointed in the body.

### *What does the passage mean?*

1. See 1 Corinthians 1:1-2 and Romans 16:3-5. How does the Bible show us that we are not just part of the global church (all Christians of all time) but that we are meant to commit to a specific local group of Christians?
2. According to 1 Corinthians 12, use the following questions to consider being members of the body of Christ:
  - Who is a part of the body of Christ? (Vv. 13, 27)
  - If you are one part of a body, you are only complete with the other parts. Why are all parts of the body needed? (Vv. 18, 21-22)
  - Why did God compose the body in the specific way that He did? (Vv. 24-25)
  - For what purpose have believers been given a spiritual gift (or gifts)? See 1 Corinthians 12:7 and Ephesians 4:11-16.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

### *How can we apply this passage to our lives?*

1. A spiritual gift presupposes there being others whom you will serve. And, no individual believer has been given all of the gifts. Encourage each group member to repeat this statement and fill in the blanks:

“I think God has gifted me to \_\_\_\_\_, therefore I’d like to serve our church by \_\_\_\_\_.”

2. We need specific leaders who care for us and who we gladly follow.
  - How should we remember our leaders? (Hebrews 13:7)
  - Why should we obey our leaders? (Hebrews 13:17)
  - What are some practical ways we can submit to our leaders? (Hebrews 13:17)

3. As you break into huddles (smaller groups of 3-4 people of the same gender) for more specific prayer, consider asking some personal accountability questions. You might ask things like:
  - Have you committed to biblical membership in a local church? If not, is there a step of obedience you should consider taking? (E.g. taking a membership class, talking with a pastor, seeking discernment through prayer etc.)
  - If you are a member of a church, are you taking your membership seriously? What might you need to adjust to more faithfully live out biblical church membership?
  - We need people who will keep us from sin and ourselves. How can our fellow Church Groups members use their gifts to help us keep our commitments to Christ and to His Church?

## LEADER NOTES

***Church Group Leaders, please share the following information with your Church Group members:***

### 1. MEDICAL MISSIONS

If you are a medical professional and would like to be contacted by Global Outreach when short-term medical missions opportunities arise, please fill out [this form](#).

### 1. INTENTIONAL PARENTING CONFERENCE – All Locations Invited

Parenting is a challenging, delightful, heart-wrenching journey that can feel profoundly overwhelming and lonely at times. Parents need guides who understand the world of their children. Join us on September 23-24 as authors, speakers and counselors David Thomas and Sissy Goff come alongside us on this journey! Visit [this link](#) to register for the conference. Childcare will be available onsite for MBC families both Friday evening and Saturday morning for an additional \$20 per family. The link to childcare registration is sent after conference registration is received.

### 2. CHRIST AND ROMAN CATHOLICISM, OCT. 7

There are an estimated 1.3 billion Roman Catholics worldwide, and you may have grown up in a Roman Catholic household or have Roman Catholic friends and family. Understanding Roman Catholic theology and practice can be difficult and make sharing the gospel challenging. Join us on Friday, October 7th at 6:30 pm at MBC Tysons, Comm. C, to hear from a partner and church planting pastor from Rome, Italy, who will answer good and difficult questions about Roman Catholicism. You will leave better equipped to understand and effectively engage your Catholic friends and relatives with the gospel. We need a tentative headcount, so please [RSVP HERE](#) if you would like to attend.

### 3. PRAYERS FOR THE NATIONS

Visit the [Global Outreach Weekly Prayer Focus](#) each week to learn about an unreached region of world and the ways we can join together in prayer for them. You can see the full 2022 Global Outreach Prayer Guide [HERE](#).