



Church Membership

Over the centuries church "membership" has become less like what God intended and more like what quenches our earthly desires. Culturally "being a member" is more relative to a "club" that serves its customers, offering narrowly defined enjoyments, a singular identifying label and limited benefits that can expire. On the contrary, God's vision for church membership is about blood-bought Kingdom citizenship. It offers a multifarious kingdom inheritance with eternal benefits and an imperishable identity that cannot be revoked.

CHURCH MEMBERS ARE...

- **Identifiable Citizens** who belong to the most powerful kingdom in heaven and on earth, and ought to be intensely consciousness of what it means to be a good citizen as they live out their unshakable identity in Christ inside and outside of the church.
- **Ambassadors** who responsibly represents God and his church to a fallen world that needs him and his refuge, while maintaining a humble confidence in carrying His authority. (Mat 28:18-20, 1Thes 2:12)
- **Gospel Unifiers** who are likeminded and are intentional about building durable church relationships beyond the weekend services. (Eph 4)
- **Interdependent Participants** who, in the shared process of growth, balance their vulnerability with their responsibility in ministering to one another, and together help the church function properly as a ministry wherever and whenever needed. (1Thes 2:12, search for "one another" verses in the Bible)
- **Dedicated Worshipers** whose object of worship is the unchanging, all powerful, all knowing and all loving Maker of the Heavens and Earth. (John 4:24)

1. Scripture helps us understand our privilege and purpose in God's Kingdom citizenship plan and what it means to be "in and not of" the world. (1Cor 13:12, John 17:6-19)

2. Scriptural metaphors for the church help us to appreciate and integrate as citizens of God's Kingdom. (we'll talk about citizenship a lot more – let's focus on appreciation and integration)

APPRECIATION = what you feel when you learn the value of something especially something you need.

INTEGRATE = to make something whole or bring together its parts.

THE CHURCH IS...

3. **God's Kingdom Embassy** – This reality ought to bring us comfort in knowing that God has established a real place for us to go in this fallen world where we are identified as His people and can claim refuge under the authority, protection and benefits God has for His citizens. (Luke 14:32-33, 1Thes 2:12, Mat 25:34)

4. **The body of Christ, but a work in progress** – This reality should increase our interdependence of one another and help us be mindful that God has given us the necessary diversity we need to develop Holy unity and maturity in Christ so that we can function as "the body" He calls us to be. (Eph 4:1-6, 11-16, 1Cor 12:12-13)

5. **The Family of God** – This reality should increase our love and fellowship with one another in Christ and help us to recognize our place in the family as children growing in the knowledge of God. (Rom 9:6-8, Mat 5:48, Rom 9:23-26, 1John 3:1-3)

6. **The Bride of Christ** – This reality should drive us toward a greater desire for purity and holiness as the bride, and greater love and submission to Christ as his Bride. (2Cor 11:2-4, Eph 5:27, Rev 19:7)

7. **About reconciliation** – This reality should help us be increasingly mindful that God unites sinners saved by grace and does in them what they cannot do themselves. And in this unity, God is dwelling with us and building us into His household. (Eph 2:13-19, Ps 103:11-13)

8. **The Royal Priesthood** – This reality should sober our thinking in the responsibility God has entrusted to us in representing Him, and stir our awareness of the delight God has in the sacrifices, praise and good deeds that we offer Him through glorifying Him in service to one another. (1Peter 2:9)

GROWING NOTES:

1. What do you think of the condition of the church in America today? Do you see a recognizable resemblance to what the lesson shows "the church is" biblically?
2. How are we to function as the church individually and collectively? Do a search on "the one another verses in the bible" and discuss them.
3. What characteristics of the church do you see in the analogies used? Do they challenge you or comfort you? Why? (God's Kingdom Embassy, The Body of Christ, The Family of God, The Bride of Christ, About Reconciliation, A Royal Priesthood)
4. What have you witnessed or experienced as "a member of the church" in good ways and in bad ways? Has this teaching brought you to a place in your heart that you can be more mindful of your privilege and purpose as the church and strengthened your resolve to appreciate and integrate more as a church member? Pray a prayer of thanksgiving and guidance to our God who has established His church – Mat 16:18b I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

It looks like we will be opening up the church very soon! We hope that you have been able to connect remotely during this time away. When we do open our doors, please know that now, as always, we are taking every precaution to ensure the safety and health of our staff, volunteers and church family and are following the guidelines of local authorities and the CDC to open safely. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we implement these recommendations.

DBCC.Com is the best place to get current updates, so keep an eye on the website! We will also be contacting you directly, so if your contact info has changed, please call the church office!

We are in the church office Mon – Thurs 9am – 3pm.
602-374-4588

Current Sermon Series: **UNSHAKABLE IDENTITY**

Everyone is building their identity on something. Our identity is what gives us meaning (What are you living for?) and worth (How well are you doing?). Identity apart from God is inherently unstable. Understanding Our True Identity in Christ will give us an unshakable meaning and worth that our hearts have always longed for.

May 23/24	Masterpiece: Created for Good Works	Romans 12:1-8
May 30/31	Secure: Never Forsaken	Hebrews 13:5-6
June 6/7	Citizen: Longing for Home	Philippians 3:12-21

UNSHAKABLE IDENTITY

May 16 & 17, 2020

Thank You for the consistent and faithful giving of our church family.
Budget Results for May 9/10
General Giving
Budget \$25,000 Actual \$24,562