



February 01, 2009 • Dr. David Platt

THE GOSPEL AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
Ephesians 4:1-16

Why We Date The Church...

- We are _____.
- We are _____.
- We are _____.
- We are _____.
- We are _____.

Why We Need To Stop Dating The Church...

- Because God’s Word says membership in the local church is _____.
- ▶ Membership in a local church is not biblically _____.
- ▶ Membership in a local church is biblically _____.
- Membership is implied by church _____.
- The church is _____ universal and local.
- The local church is a visible _____ of the universal body of Christ.
- Membership is implied by church _____.
- Membership is implied by church _____.
- Membership is implied by church _____.

The Importance of the Local Church...

“A local body of baptized believers...”

- We are recipients of a new _____.
- ▶ Baptism is a declaration that we belong to _____.
- We are members of a new _____.
- ▶ Baptism is a declaration that we belong to _____.

“...joined together under biblical leadership...”

- The church is _____ with servants of the Word.
- The church is _____ to be servants with the Word.



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Why We Date The Church...

- We are **independent**.
- We are **indifferent**.
- We are **immature**.
- We are **indecisive**.
- We are **ignorant**.

Why We Need To Stop Dating The Church...

- Because God’s Word says membership in the local church is **important**.
- ▶ Membership in a local church is not biblically **commanded**.
- ▶ Membership in a local church is biblically **implied**.
- Membership is implied by church **gatherings**.
- The church is **both** universal and local.
- The local church is a visible **expression** of the universal body of Christ.
- Membership is implied by church **discipline**.
- Membership is implied by church **leadership**.
- Membership is implied by church **accountability**.

The Importance of the Local Church...

“A local body of baptized believers...”

- We are recipients of a new **covenant**.
- ▶ Baptism is a declaration that we belong to **Jesus**.
- We are members of a new **community**.
- ▶ Baptism is a declaration that we belong to **each other**.

“...joined together under biblical leadership...”

- The church is **entrusted** with servants of the Word.
- The church is **equipped** to be servants with the Word.

“...to grow in the likeness of Christ...”

- Together, we want to know the _____ of Christ.
 - ▶ We guard one another from _____.
- Together, we want to imitate the _____ of Christ.
 - ▶ We guard one another from _____.
- Together, we want to display the _____ of Christ.
 - ▶ We guard one another from _____.

“...and express the love of Christ to each other and to the world around them.”

- _____ is the distinguishing mark of the church.
- Love is the _____ of church membership.
 - ▶ We join a church for the good of _____.
 - ▶ We join a church for the good of _____.
 - ▶ We join a church for the good of _____.
 - ▶ We join a church for the glory of _____.

Defining the Relationship...

- Membership in the local church involves committing your life in _____ with other believers to _____ the Gospel to each other and to _____ the Gospel to the world.

“...to grow in the likeness of Christ...”

- Together, we want to know the **truth** of Christ.
 - ▶ We guard one another from **deception**.
- Together, we want to imitate the **character** of Christ.
 - ▶ We guard one another from **division**.
- Together, we want to display the **fullness** of Christ.
 - ▶ We guard one another from **distraction**.

“...and express the love of Christ to each other and to the world around them.”

- **Love** is the distinguishing mark of the church.
- Love is the **essence** of church membership.
 - ▶ We join a church for the good of **ourselves**.
 - ▶ We join a church for the good of **other Christians**.
 - ▶ We join a church for the good of **non-Christians**.
 - ▶ We join a church for the glory of **God**.

Defining the Relationship...

- Membership in the local church involves committing your life in **covenant** with other believers to **show** the Gospel to each other and to **spread** the Gospel to the world.