

## The Importance of Being in Fellowship

So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Romans 12:5

It is very important that Christians attach themselves to a good Bible-believing church. Before you decide which church to join in fellowship find out what they believe.

This is important because by getting to know the believers and finding out what they believe you will have a good understanding of how the church is run and what the church teaches. The Bible does not directly address formal church membership, but there are Scriptures that strongly suggest that “church membership” was part of the early church. In Acts 2:47 the Bible says, “praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

Church membership is important as this helps Christians with accountability and growth. The main reason why we ought to be part of a local church is because God has commanded us to have fellowship with other believers and to be under the teaching of a local church and the Elders of a local church fellowship. Each member of the church has an obligation to one another. God has designed the church for the teaching of believers, building them up in faith, rebuking error and false doctrine, encouraging believers, to provoke one another to do good works and guiding them in truth. The church is the body of Christ on earth.

By joining a local church, you are committing yourself to that fellowship for the well-being of the other members and yourself. Christians ought to join a local church as a step of obedience and to glorify God. Church membership is also important for our discipleship and edification.

Turn to Acts 2:42. What did the church continued steadfastly in?

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Turn to Ephesians 4:25-31. In this portion of Scripture, we read about the changed nature of the Christian heart. This is also how the church grows in love for one another and has a burden for the lost.

In verse 27 what are we not to give place to? \_\_\_\_\_

In verse 29 what are we not to let proceed out of our mouth?

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In verse 30 what are we not to grieve? \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 4:31 says, “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.”

### Lesson Summary

The local church is the body of Christ. We are to be part of the local body of believers as Christ commanded us to be. The purpose of the church is for Christians to have fellowship

and to grow in faith and love toward each other. The church is a visible sign of Christ on earth.

**Remembrance verse**

1 Timothy 3:15

but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

