

Life in the Body – Part 4
Membership in the Local Church

1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; 1-29-15

Church Membership

- is a commitment to living out the reality of union with Christ and His universal body
- Is the practical pursuit of obedience to Christ's new commandment that 'you love one another' (John 13:34-35; 15:17; 1 John 3:23)
- Is a conscious commitment to a local body of believers in service and submission
- Is trusting God for good through commitment to an imperfect church over time.
- Is living with other believers as if 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4 are true.

*We believe in **Total or Radical Depravity***: that the sinfulness of mankind is universal, all have sinned and stand under His wrath, being in danger of eternal condemnation; that the radical corruption of man and his hatred of God results in a moral inability to turn from sin and trust Christ for salvation, apart from a gracious work of God. – Romans 3:10-12

*We believe in **Unconditional or Sovereign Election***: that God sovereignly chooses sinners for individual salvation of His own free choice, without respect to any good in them or without respect to any difference in them from other sinners. – Acts 13:48

*We believe in **Limited or Definite Atonement***: that the death of Jesus on the cross was a purposeful atonement, in which He died for those chosen for salvation before the foundation of the world and that His death was more than sufficient to achieve its intended purpose and to save all who are willing to believe. – Revelation 5:9

*We believe in **Irresistible or Effective Grace***: that the grace of God in salvation is such that it changes the hearts of sinners and causes them to be born again so that they, willingly and without fail, turn from sin and trust Jesus Christ to be their righteousness and hope of glory. - Ephesians 2:4-5

*We believe in the **Perseverance and Preservation of the Saints***: that those who are born of God will ultimately maintain their faith in Christ and endure to the end of their lives, by God's grace, regardless of the testing and in spite of the presence of sin in their lives and the possibility of serious moral failures. – Romans 8:29-30, 38-39

We believe in the **Free Offer of the Gospel**: that the gospel should be preached to all sinners regardless of their condition, without reference to their readiness to receive it or any "evidence" that they are one of the elect. - John 3:14-18

We believe in the **Benevolent Love of God for All**: that God loves all sinners in that He desires their salvation, blesses them with common grace and for many, extends to them the free offer of the gospel and the warning to repent and believe. – Matthew 5:43-48

We believe in the **Law as a Moral Standard for All**: that we are responsible to exhort sinners and saints to obey the commands of God while recognizing the necessity of God's grace in Christ to do so; for the sinner, the Law exposes His need for Christ; for the saint the Law

provides a standard of practical righteousness to be pursued by grace through faith. – 1 Corinthians 7:19

We believe in the **Warrant of Faith**: that sinners have permission or Biblical warrant to come to Christ in humble faith and repentance, confidently, without delay and without fear. – Revelation 22:17

We believe in a **Willing Savior for Sinners**: that Jesus Christ is a ready and willing Savior for all who call to Him in humble faith and repentance. – Matthew 23:37

We believe in **Believer's Baptism**: that the proper way to publicly proclaim our faith in Jesus is through the ordinance of water baptism in the mode of immersion for all those who believe, whatever age they may be; but we do not require those who are believers and have been baptized as infants or have been baptized as believers in another tradition to be baptized again in order to be members of our church. – Acts 8:12

We believe in the **Lord's Supper**: that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance in which all believers should partake of the bread and the wine (or juice) as often as the Supper is observed; whenever we observe the Lord's Supper it is open to all who are believers in Jesus whether they are members of our church or not; we do not believe that the Lord's Supper is a mere memorial nor do we believe in transubstantiation or consubstantiation, but we believe in the real, spiritual presence of our Lord in the partaking of the Lord's Supper by faith. – Luke 22:19-20

We believe in **Elder Leadership**: that the local church is to be led by qualified men who have been approved by the body to serve as elders; but that the elders are not to lord it over the body but are to lead the congregation to do what is right and wise in light of the authority of the Scriptures with a prayerful sensitivity to the input received from the congregation, whether through formal vote or through informal discussion. - Titus 1:5

We believe in **Expository Preaching and Teaching**: that the ministry of the Word is central to our mission and ministry as a body of believers and that the exposition of the Word for understanding and application is crucial for our growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. – Nehemiah 8:8

We believe in **Complementarianism**: that God created mankind male and female with equal worth in the eyes of God but with different yet complimentary roles in the family and church; therefore, we oppose egalitarianism and the ordination of women as elders and pastors. – 1 Corinthians 11:8-12

We believe in **Traditional Marriage**: that God's design is for marriage to be the union of one man and one woman for life; therefore, we oppose all sex outside of marriage, same-sex marriage and the homosexual lifestyle; that divorce is never a solution to marital problems and should be avoided, if possible, but may be necessary in the cases of adultery, abuse, and abandonment. – Genesis 2:24

We believe in the **Sanctity of Life**: that life should be valued and protected in the womb, at the end of life, and in regard to any state of illness or disability; therefore, we oppose abortion and euthanasia. – Exodus 20:13