

02, Requirements for Church Membership

- I. Credible Profession of Faith
 - a. An Adequate Intellectual Understanding in the Truths of Salvation
 - i. Understanding of God
 - ii. Understanding of Man (Sin)
 - iii. Understanding of Jesus Christ and What He Finished
 - b. A Wholehearted Embrace of the Truths in Salvation
 - i. Trusting entirely in Christ alone
 - c. A Manner of Life Which Does Not Contradict Those Truths
 - i. Dominating Characteristic of life is not against God's Law
 - ii. Professes belief, but actions show forth Christ
 - iii. Walk even as Christ walks
 - d. You Do **Not** Need to Have
 - i. An exhaustive understanding
 - ii. A sinless manner of life
- II. Biblically Baptized
 - a. Believers are the only ones to be baptized
 - b. Baptism is a symbol of the truths of a union with God through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ – The Gospel
 - i. Redemptive work of Jesus Christ – Symbolic of our union in the Death, Burial & Resurrection of Christ
 - c. Infants may not be baptized, because they have never experienced anything that Baptism signifies
 - i. They have no intellectual understanding of the Gospel
 - ii. They cannot embrace the truths in salvation
 - iii. Their life does not line up with that of a Christian
 - iv. They cannot be immersed in water (physical limitations)
 - d. When you understand the meaning of baptism, there is only one mode that can convey the truths of baptism
 - e. The primary meaning of the word baptism is immersion
- III. An Express Willingness to Submit to the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church
 - a. General Understanding of Church
 - i. Doctrine
 - ii. Constitution
 - iii. Philosophy of Ministry
 - b. Harmony with Church's doctrinal statement
 - i. Substantial agreement
 - c. Submission to the Discipline of the Local Church