

03, Privileges and Responsibilities of Church Membership – Max Doner

1. The Blessings of Church Membership

- a. The reception of regular and accurate preaching of the Word of God.
 - i. Believers are dependant upon regular spiritual food in order to spiritually survive (The Word of God) (Matthew 4:4).
- b. Support and Encouragement of a Family that is Committed to the Care of Each of its Members.
 - i. In regards to our physical body, we don't take more care for our toe than our finger, likewise with our spiritual family, we don't take care of one member and not the other (1 Corinthians 12).
 1. Prayer for one another (Acts 12), prayer without ceasing.
 2. Help for one another (Galatians 6:2).
 3. Discipline from and accountability to one another (Galatians 6:1).
- c. An Opportunity to Find and Exercise our Gifts in the Service of Christ.
 - i. Equip the saints to do the work of ministry in the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12).
- d. Personal Pastoral Care for your Soul.
 - i. Take care and feed the sheep (shepherd). (John 21:16, 1 Peter 5:2). A member of a biblically functioning local church means that you will have someone watching over your soul. John 10:11 – A Godly shepherd is willing to lay down his life for the spiritual life of God's sheep.

2. The Responsibilities of Church Membership. What should the local church expect from its members?

- a. Unreserved Commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word.
 - i. There must be a willingness to be lead wherever the hand of scriptures leads. Whatever the bible says, you will do.
- b. Willing Submission to Duly Appointed Elders
 - i. An elder does not make up the rules, but he is like an umpire in baseball. He is an executer of that which God has required. Submission to that which the Word of God requires. (Hebrews 13:7).
- c. Regular Attendance to the Basic Functions of the Church (Hebrews 10:24)
 - i. Regular attendance to the basic functions of the church is necessary. A body of Christ cannot function properly when its members are absent. If you miss out on teaching, which leads to the steps of obedience, you cannot be in union with other members in Christ.
- d. Systematic Giving for the Support of the Church
 - i. 1 Corinthians 16 – The work of God is supported by the people of God. Weekly, proportionate, as God has prospered you. There are not bills, or expected amounts, but if you are part of a family you have to contribute.
- e. Willingness to Find a Place of Service

- i. It is not an option for us to not have a ministry... we must minister, because every one of us has a gift and an obligation to use that gift for the edification of one another. This does not have to be a ministry seen by others, for example you could pray an extra ten minutes per week for those who are in need.