

## **“Membership”**

**Acts 19:21-31**

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### **Introduction – Is the church an organization or an organism?**

#### **I. The answer of the Bible – Hebrews 12:4**

- a. Nations have a government – 2 Corinthians 5:20 / 1 Peter 5:1-3 / Acts 15:1-31
- b. Nations have a shared culture, history and laws – Exodus 20:2-17 / Matthew 5-7 / Colossians 3
- c. Nations have borders - 1 Peter 3:20-21 / 1 Corinthians 10:1-2
- d. Nations have citizenship requirements – Acts 2:39 (Deut. 23:1-8 / Matthew 28:19)

#### **II. Membership in the visible church is vital to living the Christian life – Ephesians 4:11-16**

#### **III. Is local formal church membership optional? – Romans 12:9-13**

#### **IV. You are a part of the pre-eminent institution in society in the sight of God – Isaiah 60:1-2 & 2:2-3**