

Living Faith Christian Center
Corporate Bible Study
The Membership of the Church¹

Over the past several months we have answered the question, who the is church, what is the purpose of the local church, and the marks of a local church. Tonight, I would like for us to consider the membership of the local church. As we have seen the term “member” can be used in many ways. In addition to those ways the Bible uses the term member to describe those who are a part of the local church.

Member defined: a person, an animal or a plant that belongs to a particular group; a part of the body, especially an arm or a leg....

Members are Connected

Romans 12:5 ⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Describes the local church as made-up people so connected to one another in Christ that they appear as one.

Connected means having a link between them. Synonyms include linked, related, joined, united, and tied.

Connected members are known by and who know each other. We have a membership role or list to formally keep track of our members. It is made up of those who have in one way, or another expressed that the Holy Spirit led them to be so integrated in the life of LFCC and its other members that they look like one/our illustration.

Members have Responsibilities:

To each other:

Ephesians 4:1-3

Live a life that pleases God and edifies the body (members)

Love one another (John 13:34-35)

Walk in humility, gentleness, longsuffering,

Keep the unity of the Spirit

Pursue peace (Romans 12:5; 14:19)

Celebrate and mourn with one another (Romans 12:15).

Care for one another (Matt 25:40)

Keep one another accountable (Galatians 6:1-3)

Pray for one another (James 5:16; Eph 6:18)

Submit to one another (1st Peter 5:5)

Also see 1st Thessalonians 5:14-15

Towards their leaders:

Honor them (1st Thessalonians 5:12-13)

Obey them unless they go against Scripture (Hebrews 13:17).

¹ A resource used minimally in completing this Bible Study was, Jonathan Leeman. *Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Christ*. Crossway 2021.

Support them (1st Tim. 5:17)

Submit to them (1st Peter 5:5)

As a Whole:

Ensuring the holiness of the “church” (remember who the church is) (Matthew 18:17)

Judge one another’s behavior based on the Bible’s standard (1st Cor. 5:13).

Ensure good stewardship of the gifts of God.

Remember we are, *Living to Build God’s Kingdom on Earth*