

# Belonging

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**Ephesians 5:25-33**

## Part 1 - Why Church Membership?

### Why People Might Avoid Membership

- They were never \_\_\_\_\_ or ever given a \_\_\_\_\_ to join.
- There is no direct \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible to join a church.  
But ... Acts 2:41, Acts 4:4, 1 Corinthians 14:23, Acts 2:42-44
- They see membership as a \_\_\_\_\_.

### Reasons to Consider Formal Membership

- Because of how Christ \_\_\_\_\_ about the Church.  
He \_\_\_\_\_ for it.

It seems as if Christ and the Church isn't an illustration of \_\_\_\_\_, but rather, part of the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_ itself is to illustrate Christ's love for the Church.

- Because formal membership helps the \_\_\_\_\_ best \_\_\_\_\_ the church. **Hebrews 13:17**
  - We need to know who we will give an account for.
  - It communicates to us who is committed to the Church and can be counted on.
  - Certain leadership roles are only for members.
  - It allows us to best care for church members.
- Because formal membership is the best way to help you continue to \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ and to protect you from \_\_\_\_\_.

When you look for a church - find one that is willing to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Because you will get a \_\_\_\_\_ in some of the church's most important \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>17</sup> Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

**Hebrews 13:17**