



Berean Family Worship Center
One Church In Two Cities
www.bereanfamilyworshipcenter.org

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 - Group Study

Lesson Series: Church Membership

Lesson Series Text: (*Acts 16:4-5*)

Lesson 2: The Basics For Church Membership

Lesson 2 Text: (*Acts 2:41-47*)

All Scriptures are KJV; unless otherwise noted.

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- I. What are the basics for Church Membership?
 - A. The example of the Early Church.
 - B. The existence of Church Government.
 - C. The exercise of Church Discipline.
 - D. The exhortation of Mutual Edification.
- II. The Example of the Early Church.
 - A. In the early church, the example of being born again and not belonging to the local church was a foreign ideal.
 - B. When people repented and were born again, they were baptized and added to the church. (*Acts 2:41, 47; 16:5*)
 - C. The new converts wasn't just to have a private commitment to Christ, they were to join together with others in a local church; devoting themselves to the apostle's teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer. (*Acts 2:42*)
 - D. Most of the New Testament Epistles were written to the churches.
 - E. Often when believers moved to other cities; their local church would write letters of recommendations. (*Acts 16:2; Rom. 16:1-2; Col. 4:10*)
- III. The Existence of Church Government.
 - A. There is a pattern in the New Testament of a group of elders, with a set-person, overseeing a local assembly.
 - B. The duties given to the elders reveal that there is a group of believers under the elders care.
 - a. They are to shepherd the flock. (*Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2*)
 - b. To labor diligently among the flock. (*1 The. 5:12*)
 - c. To have charge over them. (*1 The. 5:12; 1 Tim. 5:17*)
 - d. To keep watch over their souls. (*Heb. 13:7*)
 - e. They are to give account to God for the souls entrusted to them. (*Heb. 13:7; 1 Pet. 5:3*)
 - C. Elders can only shepherd and give an account of those who have come and submitted themselves under their care.
 - D. The elders of a church are not responsible for those who attend sporadically and will not submit under their care.
 - E. This accountability is only done under the commitment of church membership.

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F. Those who refuse to submit themselves to the care of a local assembly have no leaders.

IV. The Exercise of Church Discipline.

- A. In *Matthew 18:15-17*, Jesus gives the four step process for church discipline
- a. When a brother sins, he is confronted privately by a single individual.
 - b. If he refuses to repent, the initial confronter is to take one or two believers along with him (preferably leaders) to confront the offender again.
 - c. If the sinning brother refuses to listen to the group, then they are to tell it the church.
 - d. If there is still no repentance, the final step is to put the person out of the assembly. (*1 Cor. 5:1-13; 1 Tim. 5:20; Titus 3:10-11*)
- B. These references indicate that the different individuals cannot be discipline if they don't belong.
- a. The Elders at Berean are not authorized to put someone out of another church or another local assembly.

V. The Exhortation to Mutual Fellowship.

- A. The Word of God teaches that the church is the body of Christ; and the Father has called each member to a life devoted to the growth of the body.
- B. We are exhorted to edify one another in the body (*Heb. 10:24-25*); and exercise our spiritual gifts. (*Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11*)
- C. Body ministry of this kind can only take place in the body of committed believers.
- D. The local church is a way of expressing that commitment.

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