

Rockin' M Cowboy Church
Membership Q&A
22-10-31
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- How do we define membership?
 - Church membership is **not** a matter of acceptance or willingness to care for or love anyone. **Nor** is it a contract obligating the member to anything further than the Biblical expectations of a member of the body of Christ.
 - When approached in a Godly manner and with the right heart, membership is a biblically sound tool that can benefit the church, the pastor, and the member by defining the congregation of the local body of believers and aiding in uniting that body.
- Is membership a matter of salvation?
 - Absolutely not! Only a sincere faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is needed for salvation. (Acts 16:31)
- Is membership an essential doctrine of the church?
 - No. We consider the following essential doctrines (and members must agree):
 - The full deity and full humanity of Jesus Christ (John 10:30, 20:28, 1:14; 1 Tim 2:5)
 - Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 4:12; John 14:6)
 - The gospel that Christ died for our sins, was buried, resurrected to everlasting life, and will return in glory (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; John 2:19-21; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 19:11-16)
 - Monotheism in the worship of God as existing in the Trinity consisting of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 8:5-6, 12:4-6; Matthew 29:19).
 - The Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- Is membership biblical?
 - We believe what we term “membership” can be inferred from the Bible and is, therefore, a biblically sound concept for the local church as it exists within the global church. For examples, see Acts 6:2-3, 15:22, 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-3; Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13, 2:6; Galatians 6:10.
 - While the term “membership” is not explicitly used in the Bible, it is a modern word that defines a concept present in the Bible. We use the word “Trinity” in much the same way. “Home church” is a synonym for membership.
 - Membership **is** more of a heart issue than a formal one. When we are committed in our hearts to a local body, the Bible describes certain expectations of the believer, such as worshiping together, carrying one another’s burdens, praying for one another, growing in maturity, seeking unity, and serving.
 - However, there are potential spiritual, psychological, practical, and organizational issues that benefit from church membership.

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- How can membership be a benefit?
 - To the member, it can help open our spirit to the Holy Spirit in uniting us with other members. Likewise, there is something psychologically beneficial about ceremony and formality that binds us to the church and the church to us.
 - To the pastor and elders, it identifies the flock he is responsible for (Hebrews 13:17; Acts 20:28) without having to guess, infer, or discern. Pastors are humans, and mistakes in judgment can be made that could be detrimental to either party. That's why speaking plainly about what is in one's heart is preferred.
 - To the church, since we are organized as a congregational assembly, it identifies active members eligible to vote and hold offices. Membership allows identifying active members without having to guess, infer, or discern.
- Is it necessary to formally request membership and be presented to the church?
 - No, but we believe this methodology does have benefits.
- How can someone be considered a member outside the formal process and presentation?
 - A discussion with the pastor and/or elders would be a very appropriate way to communicate your heart connection to that local body and would be very appreciated.
- What should I do next?
 - If you have questions about membership, please do not hesitate to contact the pastor, elders, or any member of church leadership. We would be glad to answer your questions.
 - If you would like to request membership formally, please fill out a "New Member" card and place it in the offering bucket or hand it to the pastor or anyone in church leadership.
 - Alternatively, tell the pastor, elders, or any member of church leadership that you would like to become a member.
 - The pastor will contact you to discuss your membership and answer any questions you may have.
 - If you would like to be considered a member outside the formal process and presentation, or if you desire to let church leadership know that you already consider yourself a member of the church, please get in touch with the pastor.
 - The pastor will discuss your membership with you and answer any questions you may have.
- Rockin' M Cowboy Church is a wonderful place to call your church home, and we hope you feel connected to this church. Our goal is to be a blessing to you as we help you grow as a disciple of Christ, even as you bless the church with your presence, all to the glory of God.