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## Does Church Membership Matter?

### Selected Scriptures

#### I. The Difference Between the Universal Church and the Local church

- A. The \_\_\_\_\_ church (1 Jn. 2:19; Isa. 29:13; Rev. 2-3)
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ church (Acts 2:41; Matt. 25:31-32, 41-46; Matt. 7:21-23)

#### II. The Description of the Local Church

- A. An \_\_\_\_\_ of believers (1 Cor. 2; 16:19; Gal. 1:1-2; 1 Thes. 1:1; Rev. 1:11)
- B. An opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ the "one-anothers" (Jn. 13:34-35; Mk. 9:50; Rom. 1:20; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 4:2, 32; 5:19; Phil. 2:3; Col. 3:18; Heb. 10:25; Jms 5:16)
- C. A place to be \_\_\_\_\_ (Titus 1:5; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-3)

#### III. The Difficulty of a Lack of Emphasis on Membership

- A. Who is \_\_\_\_\_ who? (1 Pet. 5:1-3; Heb. 13:17)
- B. Who is \_\_\_\_\_ to who? (1 Thes. 5:12-13)

#### IV. The Decision to Join as a Member of a Local Church

- A. Biblical \_\_\_\_\_ in the preaching, worship, and ministries of the church (Acts 2:42-47; 2 Tim. 4:2; Jn. 4:24; Eph. 5:18-20; Eph. 3:7)
- B. Biblical \_\_\_\_\_ on the ordinances of the church: baptism, communion, as well as church discipline (Matt. 16:13-18; 18:15-17; 28:19; 26:26-28)
- C. Biblical \_\_\_\_\_ in the body of the church (Col. 3:16; 1 Thes. 5:14)

#### V. The Decision to Leave a Local Church

- A. Should be based on an obvious \_\_\_\_\_ of the statements above
- B. Should be based on honest prayer and \_\_\_\_\_ leading
- C. Should not be based on \_\_\_\_\_ sin issues
- D. Should be \_\_\_\_\_ clearly to the elders

#### TAKE HOME

- We would encourage every regular attendee to become a formal \_\_\_\_\_
- We want to be the kind of church that shepherds each other \_\_\_\_\_
- We will always strive to stick to our \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at [placritachurch.com](http://placritachurch.com).

1. Read Matthew 25:31-32, 41-46 and then Matthew 7:21-23. According to these two texts how can you tell who is in the invisible church as opposed to who is in the visible church? What is the distinction between these two?

2. What does the word *ecclesia* mean? What are the “one-anothers” of Scripture? Where is the best place to practice the “one-anothers”?

3. Read Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5:1-3. What do these verses teach is the job of the elders? How can the sheep help with this process?

4. Read Hebrews 13:17 and 1 Thess. 5:12-13. What do these verses teach us about the perspective that God wants us to have of those who have been appointed by Him in the position of elder?

5. Read Acts 2:42-47; 2 Tim. 4:2; John 4:24; Eph. 5:18-20 and Eph. 3:7. Discuss the three points that take part in you choosing a biblical church. How many ministers are there at PBC?

6. Have you ever left a local church? Why did you leave? Did you leave on good terms or bad terms? What is the appropriate way to leave a church in the future?

7. Which one of the take home points do you need to work on the most? How can you do this while resting in the grace of God? What do you think about the PBC mission statement?

*“PBC commits its pulpit, its leadership, its people, its programs, and its resources to Word-centered teaching for equipping the saints for the work of ministry in love and excellence to the building up and maturing of the Body of Christ into the fullness of Christ.”  
(Ephesians 4:12-16)*