

Being a Member of the Body of Christ

(1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

Introduction:

1. Over the past four weeks we have examined some facts about the organization of the Lord's church.
2. This morning lesson seeks to examine the role of the members of the Lord's body.
3. The role of the members is an active, participating role involved in the work of the Lord.

I. How Does One Become a Member?

- A. One can only become a member by obeying the Head – that is, Christ. (Ephesians 1:22-23).
- B. To become a member of the church we need to examine Acts 2.
 1. Those who obeyed on that day were added to the church. (Acts 2:46, 47)
 2. Those on the day of Pentecost heard the word, believe, repented and were baptized. (*see all of Acts 2*)
 3. Baptism is that which washes away sin. (Acts 22:16)
 4. Baptism is putting on Christ. (Galatians 3:27)
- C. After one has become a member of the body of Christ (“universal”), it is good to become a member of a local congregation.
 1. This allows for the elders to be able to shepherd the individual as part of the flock.
 2. Saul, after becoming a Christian, tried to join the disciples at Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-28).
- D. Are you a member?

II. What Does a Member Do?

- A. There are many different parts, but every one is useful. (1 Corinthians 12:14-31)
 1. Since there are many members, each will make a different contribution.
 - a. (Ephesians 4:11-16)
 - b. (Romans 12:3-10)
 - c. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)
- B. The members of the body are active. (Acts 2:40-47)
- C. Members do not compete with one another, they show love. (Ephesians 4:25,32)
- D. The members of the body seek to accomplish the will of God. (Ephesians 2:10)
- E. Members have a responsibility to the lost. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- F. Strong members need to care for those that are weak. (Romans 14:1)
- G. Members need to restore those who have been overtaken in a trespass. (Galatians 6:1)
- H. Members pray for one another. (James 5:16)
- I. The members encourage one another. (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- J. Members must forgive one another. (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13)

III. What Type of Member are You?

- A. There are various types of members: (Author Unknown)
 1. Some Christians are like wheelbarrows -- not good unless pushed.
 2. Some are like canoes -- need to be paddled.

3. Some are like kites -- if a string isn't kept on them, they fly away.
4. Some are like kittens -- more contented when petted.
5. Some are like balloons -- full of wind and ready to blow up.
6. Some are like footballs -- you can't tell which way they'll bounce next.
7. Some are like trailers -- they have to be pulled.
8. Some are like neon lights -- they keep going on and off.
9. Some are like the North Star -- there when you need them, dependable and ever loyal.

B. Suggestions on improving your membership:

1. Get to know your fellow brothers and sisters.
2. Ask the elders for a duty you can fulfill.
3. Come during times of service and actively participate.
4. Express concerns to your brothers and sisters and petition their help.
5. Engage in the activities of the congregation.
6. Aspire to grow personally.

Conclusion:

1. The members of this congregation have a great deal of opportunities, both "inside" this congregation and "outside" this congregation.
 - a. We live in the second fastest growing area in the state of West Virginia.
2. Every member is important. Every member is vital to the "life-blood" of this congregation.
3. Are you a member of the body of Christ? If not, why not?
4. Are you a member of this local congregation? Would you like to be?