

WHY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP????

As a church who has been faithfully gathering and worshipping for over 25 years. As we continue to ask the LORD what the future of GCF looks like, our Elders are convinced both biblically and pastorally that formal membership is a faithful expression of the Christian life.

This isn't mere formality, rather we believe that this is a biblical and healthy move for our church and those who desire to "be the church". Our desire is to love Christ more faithfully and serve people better, and we believe Church Membership helps us achieve that.

Below are 8 Reasons why we believe membership is necessary.

- 1) Salvation in Christ isn't only about "ME".** Salvation not only means Forgiveness, it also means being brought into a new community. Salvation is not merely a personal relationship with Jesus, it's a communal relationship (Acts 2) with the Church to live on mission for Jesus as well.
- 2) Jesus said he would build his church.** Jesus' promise (Mat. 16:18) means there are boundaries that show us who is the Church, and who are *not yet* the Church. Therefore our commitment to a local church is a commitment to Christ and his mission to bring people to himself.
- 3) It's one way to "officially" represent Jesus.** Membership is the church's recognition and affirmation that you are a citizen of Christ's kingdom and therefore a card-carrying Jesus Representative before the nations. To be a member of the Church, means you have declared your position to a watching world.
- 4) It helps Christian leaders lead.** Membership lets Christian leaders know which Christians on Planet Earth they will "give an account" for (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2).
- 5) It enables church discipline.** It gives you the biblically prescribed place to participate in the work of church discipline responsibly, wisely, and lovingly (1 Cor. 5).
- 6) It holds Leaders Accountable.** Leaders within the Church are held to standards according to Scripture, and members of a church can feel like they have a voice if they see unbiblical patterns, teaching, or conduct because we all can agree that we all have "blind-spots" (Gal. 2:11-14).
- 7) It gives structure to the Christian life.** It places an individual Christian's claim to "obey" and "follow" Jesus into a real-life setting where authority is actually exercised over us (see John 14:15; 1 John 2:19; 4:20-21).
- 8) It builds a witness and invites the nations.** Membership puts the alternative rule of Christ on display for the watching universe (see Matt. 5:13; John 13:34-35; Eph. 3:10; 1 Peter 2:9-12). The very boundaries which are drawn around the membership of a church yields a society of people which invites the nations to something better.