

Get more out of the message



Rediscover Church

Why Membership Matters

When God redeems us, He doesn't just give us a new heart, He gives us a new family and calls us to a new mission.

In this five-week series, we'll explore what it means to move from attending a church to belonging to a church. Whether you're new to faith, curious about membership or already deeply committed, you'll discover what membership to a local church means and why it matters.

WATCH: [YouTube](#) or [Website](#)

THINGS TO READ

For further reading and reflection

Scriptures

- Ephesians 4:1-16
- Hebrews 10:25
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- Matthew 18:15-20
- Hebrews 13:7, 17-19
- Acts 2:42-47
- Matthew 16:18-19
- Matthew 28:16-20
- 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
- Galatians 6:2
- Romans 12:13
- Hebrews 13:17

Books

- *Uncomfortable* by Brett McCracken
- *Church Membership* by Jonathan Leeman
- *A Church Called Tov* by Scot McKnight
- *A Praying Church* by Paul Miller
- *Analog Church* by Jay Kim

Articles

- [5 Metaphors for Your Church Membership](#) by David Schrock
- [The Church-Centered Life](#) by Lydia Schiable
- [What are the Responsibilities of Church Membership?](#) by Matt Emadi
- [Church Membership](#) by Jamie Dunlop
- [What is Church Membership?](#) by Johnathan Leeman
- [Church Membership: The Corporate Gives Meaning & Significance to the Individual](#) by Greg Strand
- [5 Biblical Arguments for Church Membership](#) by Brian Boyles (Lifeway Research)

LISTEN TO THESE

Slow down and listen

Sermons

- [The Church](#) by Tim Keller (32 minutes)
- [Known and Be Known: God's Vision for the Local Church](#) by Andy Davis (46 minutes)

Podcasts

- [Is it Important for me to Become a Member of My Local Church?](#) By John Piper (5-minute video, 2-minute read)

DEVOTIONALS

Ground yourself in Scripture

[Jesus Prays for Unity](#)

Jesus' prayer in John 17 is the longest recorded prayer we have of Jesus. It is overwhelmingly deep, and it would take a lifetime to fully probe the dimensions of its truth. It is often called the "High Priestly Prayer," because we learn from Hebrews that Jesus is our great high priest, and this is an example of how Jesus prays. I want to focus on Jesus' prayer for the unity of his disciples. (Andy Davis)

ART REFLECTION

Appreciate art and reflect



[Happy Jesus - One in Christ](#)

by Fan Pu

"Christ's Incarnation is unrepeatable, unique. But it was the Trinity's good plan that the physical body of Jesus would leave this earth, and that his people would become the dwelling place for his Spirit. Fan Pu's image reflects the incarnational reality that we are Christ's body—the habitation for his Spirit on earth. Is our fellowship of such a character and unity that we are a "happy" expression of Christ's body to the world? My friends, we cannot bear the image of Christ alone. Each person is one expression of God's creativity, one unique package of personality, gifts, and beloved personhood. But the expression of God's reality as a loving communion only comes

into focus and into power as we love each other and join in worship, submission, growth, service, and friendship. A body's strength and beauty comes from the diversity of its parts." (Brian Morykon)

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

Reflect on God's voice

1. In what ways has being part of a local church shaped my spiritual maturity and faith?
2. What does it mean to "walk in a manner worthy" of the calling God has given me (Ephesians 4:1)?
3. How am I bearing the burdens of others and allowing them to bear mine (Galatians 6:2)?
4. In what ways do I show hospitality to my church family (Romans 12:13)?
5. How am I involved in the church's mission to make disciples (Matthew 28:16-20)?
6. How has God gifted me, and how am I using those gifts to build up His church?

PRAYER

Connect your heart

Week 1

Lord, you did not call us to walk alone, but to be part of a body, a people precious to you. Teach us to listen before we speak, to yield our preferences in love, to seek your will together and lean not on our own understanding. Keep us faithful in the small things: praying, serving, bearing burdens, forgiving- as members of your Body. May we honor you, not in isolation, but in the steady work of unity within the church you died to redeem. Amen.

Week 2

Father, thank you for saving me! By your Spirit's work in me, I know that you are the One true God who has saved me to yourself and your family. Thank you that I am not alone, that you have made me part of your church. Help me to see my Door Creek family as a body. To see and appreciate all the different parts: the skills and talents and gifts that you have given to your people. Help me to see how you have gifted me and how I can use that to serve your Kingdom. Lord help me to love like you. Give me a passion for serving your Bride, King Jesus!

Week 3

King Jesus, thank you that we do not fight sin alone. Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit, helping me to fight sin daily. Thank you for giving me your body as well. Father, I ask that you help us as DCC to fight against sin together. Help us all to strive to walk in a manner worthy of the Gospel, that we would challenge and encourage one another to live as people who belong to you. Give us patience and grace to love one another well. Let us be a people that are clearly striving towards holiness like you.

Week 4

King Jesus, you are the Head of the Church. Keep me faithful beneath You. Teach me to follow you with an abiding trust in You. You have placed me in your church not simply for comfort, but for formation. Help me to grow in humility, honor those you have called to lead, and to serve without seeking praise. Help me to love and submit to authority in the church as a reflection of my devotion to you. Amen.

Week 5

Lord Jesus, you have called me to live not for myself, but to live for one another. To love, forgive, to bear burdens, to serve faithfully. Teach me to be humble like You, to speak the truth in love, to be a vessel of your kindness. Help me love as You loved, sacrificially, patiently and fully. Amen.

Looking for more prayer opportunities?

Click [here](#) to be notified about ongoing DCC prayer needs.

Click [here](#) to send in a prayer request.

LIVE IT OUT

Respond to Jesus' call

- Sign up for our [Membership Class](#)! Our next one is scheduled for October 3 and 4 (it's a two-day class). It will be a great place to learn all the details of membership here at Door Creek Church.
- Practice hospitality! Hospitality does not have to mean throwing a fancy dinner party. Instead, it's inviting others into normal life. Invite a friend over for coffee, invite someone on a prayer walk, pursue friendship with someone new at church, follow the Holy Spirit's invitation to life in community.