

OUR MEMBERSHIP PHILOSOPHY

LESSON 4

I. **The Importance of Church Membership**

- A. The Bible suggests records were kept in the early church. (Acts 1:15; 2:41)
- B. The Biblical example is a Christian attached to a local church.
- C. Today, many Christians minimize church membership but membership does several things:
 - 1. Assures common doctrinal belief - Doctrine is paramount!
 - 2. Promotes unity of believers – Christians with common beliefs and practices can serve God and minister together in unity.
 - 3. Provides accountability (Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:15-17)
 - 4. Provides numerous opportunities to serve

II. **The Requirements for Church Membership**

- A. Salvation
- B. Baptism
- C. New Members' Class (Discovering CBC)
- D. Agreement with the Constitution and By-laws

III. **The Expectations with Church Membership**

- A. What you may expect from Community Baptist Church
 - 1. Christ-honoring services with Biblically-sound preaching and teaching
 - 2. Ministry in time of need
 - 3. Financial and moral integrity in leadership
 - 4. Warm, loving environment
- B. What Community Baptist Church expects from you
 - 1. Regular attendance at the services.
 - a. God commands our faithfulness. (Hebrews 10:25)
 - b. Each of our services has a specific purpose.
 - (1) Sunday morning: Worship and Evangelism
 - (2) Sunday evening: Discipleship and Christian growth
 - (3) Wednesday evening: Prayer and Bible study
 - c. Many people join churches and take a casual approach to attendance. We expect our members to attend

regularly.

- (1) Members who do not attend regularly do not grow spiritually.
- (2) Members who do not attend regularly are disobedient believers. (Hebrews 10:25)

- 2. Invite others to church.
*80% of those who visit a church do so because of a friend, relative, associate, or neighbor.

*Statistics from Thomas Rainer's book, *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched and Proven Ways to Reach Them* (pp. 49-50).

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- a. When the formerly unchurched were asked the question, “Which person was the greatest influence in your coming to Church?” 2% said merchant, 6 % said neighbor, 8% said coworker, 17% said other, 25% said no one, but 43% said family member.
 - b. Out of the 43% that came to Christ through the influence of a family member, 2% was due to the witness of a parent-in-law, 5% through siblings, 9% through parents, 9% through other family members, 18% through children, and 35% through wives.
 - c. “The most receptive unchurched group is living in the homes of those already active in our churches.” (Rainer, pp. 49-50)
3. Participate in the ministry
 - a. We offer many opportunities for your spiritual growth and involvement.
 - (1) Regular services
 - (2) Weekly visitation
 - (3) Discipleship of new converts
 - (4) Evangelism training
 - (5) Music (choir, vocal and instrumental specials, offertory, etc.)
 - (6) Kids/Youth ministry
 - (7) Ladies’/Men’s ministries
 - (8) Usher/Greeter
 - (9) Weekly set-up/take down
 - (9) Technical/Computer support
 - (10) Special events (Family Fun Fest; Canvassing, Christmas Program, etc.)
 - b. We strongly urge you to get involved in ministry.
 - (1) This is key to your being assimilated into the church and developing relationships!
 - (2) You get out of church what you put into church.
 - (3) Come to church ready to serve!
 4. Give
 - a. This is God’s plan for the local church. I Corinthians 16:1-3
 - b. This is God’s plan for blessing in the believer’s life. Lk 6:38
- C. How you can experience God’s best in your new church home.
1. Develop a quiet time with God each day.
 2. Develop relationships with others in the church.
 3. Attend the worship services.
 4. Support the ministry through your tithes and offerings.
 5. Find a ministry in which you can serve and get involved.