

# Polity, Part 3: Membership

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## Various Texts

### 1.) What Is a Church?

According to the New Testament, the church is primarily a regular assembly of people who profess and give evidence that they have been saved by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone to the glory of God alone.

### 2.) Why Join a Church?

5 Reasons:

A.) To Have Assurance for Ourselves

*"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."* (John 14:21)

*"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."* (John 15:10)

*"You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."* (John 15:14)

*"If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."* (John 13:17)

B.) To Evangelize the World

C.) To Expose False Gospels

D.) To Edify the Church

E.) To Glorify God

*"having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."*  
(1 Peter 2:12)

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)*

*"**34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)*

### **3.) What Does Membership Mean at Gray Gables?**

A.) You Have Been Baptized

B.) You Partake of the Lord's Supper

C.) You Regularly in Attendance

*"not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)*

D.) You Are Open to Discipline

E.) You Display Love to One Another

F.) You Participate in Worship

G.) You Seek to Grow

H.) You Willingly Serve

*"We are one of God's chief pieces of evidence. Paul's great concern [in Eph. 4:1-16] for the church, is that the church manifest and display the glory of God, thus vindicating God's character against all the slander of demonic realms, the slander that God is not worth living for. God has entrusted to His church the glory of His own name. The circumstances of your life are the God-given occasion of your displaying and manifesting the attributes of God." - Mark Ross*