

# **BELONGING MATTERS**



**CRUISESHIP OR  
BATTLESHIP?**

**MATTHEW 16:13-19**



How effectively am I fulfilling my  
role as a church member ?



## **3 Reasons We Have Lost the Importance of Membership**

1. Enormous pressure to grow.
2. Fear that if we create a “barrier” that few will come.
3. Culture no longer emphasizes accountability or commitment.

# Membership's Foundation



- Christ is the foundational cornerstone.  
Ephesians 2:18-20, I Peter 2:6
- Biblical foundation of membership  
Acts 2:41, I Cor. 1:2, Rev.2-3



**Christ has established the church to be His vehicle to spread the good news of the gospel.**

# Membership's Function



- Living a life that shines Christ.  
Ephesians 1:4; I Peter 1:13-16

Compare Leviticus 11:44-45, 19:2,  
20:7, 26, 21:8 & I Peter 2:5, 9

# Membership's Function



- Living a life that is centered on the Great Commission .  
Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15,  
Luke 24:46-47, Acts 1:8

# Membership's Function



- Living a life that builds others up in the faith through the local church.

I Corinthians 14:26

To edify means “to build up”.

Colossians 2:7, Ephesians 4:11-12





## **Church members should ...**

- strive to live holy lives**
- obey the Great Commission**
- build fellow members in their faith**

# Applications



1. Be in prayer and be inquisitive about membership.
2. Study Acts 2:40-47 and 4:32-37 ... the New Testament church in action.
3. Share the gospel message at least one time this week.