**Understanding Covenant Church Membership**

Covenant Church Membership is simply the way in which an individual Christian is known to be committed to all others in a specific local body of believers (church) and how all others in that specific local body of believers (church) are known to be committed to that individual Christian. Covenant Church Membership also reflects an individual Christian’s desire to be spiritually accountable to the Spiritual Leaders of a local body of believers (church) and it allows the Spiritual Leaders of that local body of believers (church) to know whom they are spiritually and ministerially responsible for.

We are asked to join businesses and organizations constantly. Almost every restaurant or grocery store will ask you if you are a “rewards member” or something similar in name. Yet at the same time, many Christians view official affiliation (Covenant Membership) to a local church optional or unimportant.

**The Biblical foundation for church membership permeates the New Testament. The Biblical basis can be seen most clearly in:**

*- The Scriptural example of the early church*

*- The Scriptural instruction for church government*

*- The Scripture mandate for church discipline*

*- The Spiritual exhortation to build-up, encourage and help each other mature in the faith*

**Perhaps the best way to define church is to begin with what a church is NOT:**

*- it is not a loose affiliation of people who hold roughly the same religious beliefs, no matter what those beliefs might be. There is a difference between a religious organization and a Biblical church.*

*- A building or a physical location to gather for common interests or recreation- country club*

*- A non-profit organization with a purpose to simply make their community a better place*

**A Biblical church is:**

*- An assembly of baptized believers who profess and give evidence they have been genuinely saved by the grace of God*

*- A local, living and loving collection of Christians who are committed to Christ and to each other*

*- A mighty example of God’s grace, wisdom, and glory*

*- A power display of counter-cultural, Christ-like love*

**Ephesians 3:10** To the intent that now the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+3%3A10&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29262a)]manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+3%3A10&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29262b)]principalities and powers in the heavenly *places.*

**John 13:35** “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Lord established His church and proclaimed that He would build it. It is important for every Christian to remember that church does not belong to any person or persons. The church does not belong to the pastor, deacons, or the longest tenured members. The church belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Mission Church of Lexington is the Lord’s church! He has called us to be a part of His Kingdom work in our city, our commonwealth, our country and around the world!

**Covenant Membership Matters for the Individual Health of a Christian**

For our own spiritual protection and formation, we need to identify with a local church body. We need the counsel, friendship, and fellowship found only within a church congregation. We can easily make poor spiritual and life decisions. We need other people to hold us accountable and to encourage us to obey God. The Bible speaks of Christians as sheep. Sheep are not meant to wonder around on their own. They are prone to danger and confusion. But when a sheep is in a flock and guided by a shepherd, that sheep is protected, safe, and provided for.

**Acts 20:28** Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+20%3A28&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27655a)]of God which He purchased with His own blood.

**Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **25**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.

 **Covenant Membership Matters for the Sake of God’s Name**

The building up of the church is ultimately the work of God. God sovereignly and providently places Christians into a local church. God places Christians in The Mission Church of Lexington. The Bible describes a church as a “body”. Each person is a part of this “body”. Just as arms, legs, ears and eyes are all members of one whole body, so each Christian that God places within a church has a function to fulfill as a part of that body. Together those church members create one body… and that body is the physical picture of Christ to our community and world.

**Acts 2:47** Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2%3A47&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-26997a)]to the church daily those who were being saved.

**1 Corinthians 12:12** For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ.

**Covenant Membership Matters for the Sake of God’s Purpose**

The Purpose of The Mission Church of Lexington is simple: We exist to enlist unbelievers, to equip believers and to empower missionaries. God wants every Christian to work together to fulfill His Great Commandment and His Great Commission, until the whole world has heard the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 22:37-39** Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38**This is *the* first and great commandment. **39**And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

**Matthew 28:19-20** “Go [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28%3A19-20&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24215a)]therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28%3A19-20&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24216b)]Amen.

**Acts 1:8** “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1%3A8&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-26932a)]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**Does God want you to be a Covenant Member of The Mission Church of Lexington?**