

# COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH

## Lesson 10

**Introduction:** Sometimes people will ask me what they must do to become a member of Valleyview? Is there something to sign? ... Something to do? Today we will discuss how one becomes a member, and why that is so important.

**\*IN THIS CLASS WE WILL DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING POINTS...**

- Two Aspects of Church Membership
- How does it happen?
- What does it look like?

**\*PSALMS 68:6 – “GOD MAKES A HOME FOR THE LONELY (SETS THE SOLITAIRE IN FAMILIES, K.J.V.) ... ONLY THE REBELLIOUS DWELL IN A PARCHED LAND.”**

### 1. TWO ASPECTS OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

#### A. UNIVERSAL

*\*Col 1:18 – “And He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have supremacy.”*

1. We’re BORN into this church (Jn 3:5)
2. JESUS is the common denominator.

#### B. LOCAL

*\*Romans 1:7 – “To all in Rome...”*

*\*1 Cor 1:2 – “To the church of God in Corinth...”*

*\*Eph 1:1 – “to the saints in Ephesus... Philippi ... Colosse ... Thessalonians, etc...”*

1. Most of the references of “church” in the Bible have to do with the local expression of the Body of Christ.
2. They have their own leadership, strengths, and problems.
3. Why is it so important to belong to a local body of believers?

*\*One seasoned and well-known man of God put it this way, “I have pastored too long to believe that any person is safe without accepting the Holy Spirit’s direction to settle down with one flock (church)....”*

### 2. THE “HOW’S” OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

*\*Eph 4:16 – “From Him the whole body joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grow and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”*

*\*Commitment to a church is a “spiritual knitting” and “identification”, and not merely attendance. This occurs through the following four points...*

#### A. GOD PLACES YOU

*\*Ps 68:6 - “God sets the solitary in families...”*

*\*1 Cor 12:18 – “God has arranged the parts in the body, everyone of them, just as He wanted them.”*

- People don’t just join a church of their choice, but are placed by God in the church of His choice!

#### **B. UNITY OF VISION**

*\*Prov 29:18 - “Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained...”*

*\*Amos 3:3 – “How can two walk together unless they be agreed?”*

- A unity of vision should develop in your heart as you participate in the life of the church

#### **C. RELATIONSHIPS**

*\*Acts 2:44 – “Those who believed were together...”*

*\*Rom 12:5 – “...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”*

- More than anything else, the church is about “relationship”
- The “cross” is a picture of this

#### **D. LEADERSHIP**

*\*Heb 13:17 – “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

- If you can’t trust, submit and obey the leadership it’s time to move on.

### **3. COMMITTED MEMBERSHIP – WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? (F’s)**

*\*Do you consider yourself a committed member of Valleyview?*

#### **A. FIRST / FOR-MOST**

*\*Luke 9:23 – “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”*

- Commitment to a local church begins with a 100% commitment to Jesus!

#### **B. FOCUS**

*\*Prov 29:18 - “Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained...”*

*\*Amos 3:3 – “How can two walk together unless they be agreed?”*

*\*1 Cor 12:12 – “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body.”*

- Does the church resemble a pile of rocks lying around in disarray or rocks assembled into a building dwelt by God?

#### **C. FOUNDATION**

*\*Mt 7:24-25 – “...Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall...”*

- The storm is coming. Will your house still be standing?

#### **D. FELLOWSHIP**

*\*1 John 1:7 – “If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another....”*

- Fellowship: “Two fellows in the same ship”
- There are “30 One Another’s” in the Bible

#### **E. FAITHFUL**

*\*Luke 16:12 – “If you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?” (Also: **Money ... Very Little**)*

*\*Mt 25:23 – “Well done, good and faithful servant...”*

*\*Prov 20:6 – “Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find?”*

1. Based upon *commitment, not convenience!*
2. Because *I am important!*
3. Why is *my faithfulness* so important?
  - God Honors Faithfulness
  - Food & Ministry (→ YOU → OTHERS)
  - Receive Full Vision
  - You will Reap What You Sow (When you lead)

#### **F. FINANCES**

*\*Malachi 3:10 – “Bring the **whole tithe** into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”*

*\*2 Cor 9:6-7 – “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

- Storehouse: Main place of food
- It cost money – Committed members realize that
- “I can’t afford to” – “You can’t afford not to!”

#### **G. FRICTION**

*\*Prov 27:17 – “As iron sharpens iron, so **one man sharpens another.**”*

- “To live above with the saints we love will be glory. To live below with the saints we know, is another story.”
- It’s really for our good!
- Remember the “treasure” in the whole field!

**CONCLUSION: Sometimes Christian community is all “warm & fuzzy”. Other times it’s anything but that. Regardless, it’s not optional! We must be committed to a group of people to practically walk out this Christianity.**