

# *Last Week*

**Requesting Local Membership**

**Selecting Elders and Deacons**

**Submissive to Leadership**

**Discipline the Unruly**

**Spread the Gospel**

**Preserve Unity**

**Edify Others**

**Responsibilities of Church Membership**

# Blessings of Church Membership



## A. Used of the Universal Church *Everywhere on Earth.*

Mat 16:18; Eph 1:22-23  
1 Tim 3:15 Pillar & Support



## B. Used of a Local Church *in a geographic Location.*

Acts 8:1 Church in *Jerusalem*  
1 Cor 1:2 To the church.. at *Corinth*.  
1 Thess 1:1 To the church of the *Thessalonians*.  
Rev 2:1 The Church in *Ephesus*; 3:1 The church in *Sardis*.



# Blessings of Church Membership

Prov 9:12 “*Wise* for self”

Prov 27:9 “Counsel is *Sweet*.”

## 1. Loving Counsel

**Advice, Direction, Insight.**

Rom 15:14 “You are... full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to *admonish* one another.”



Nouthentein: “*Advise*” (Louw) “Have a *corrective influence*” (Kittle)

Prov 11:14 “Where there is no guidance, the people fall, but *in abundance of counselors there is victory.*” (*Not all are equal!*)

Prov 19:21 “Many are the plans in a man's heart, but the *counsel of the Lord*, it will stand.

# Blessings of Church Membership

## 2. Forever Friends



3 John 14 *The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.*

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his *life for his friends*. (Rom 16:1-4 Phobe, Prisca, Aquilla)

*Marriage lasts a lifetime (Mt 22:30). Friendships last forever.*

Prov 17:17 *A friend loves at all times* & a brother is born for adversity.

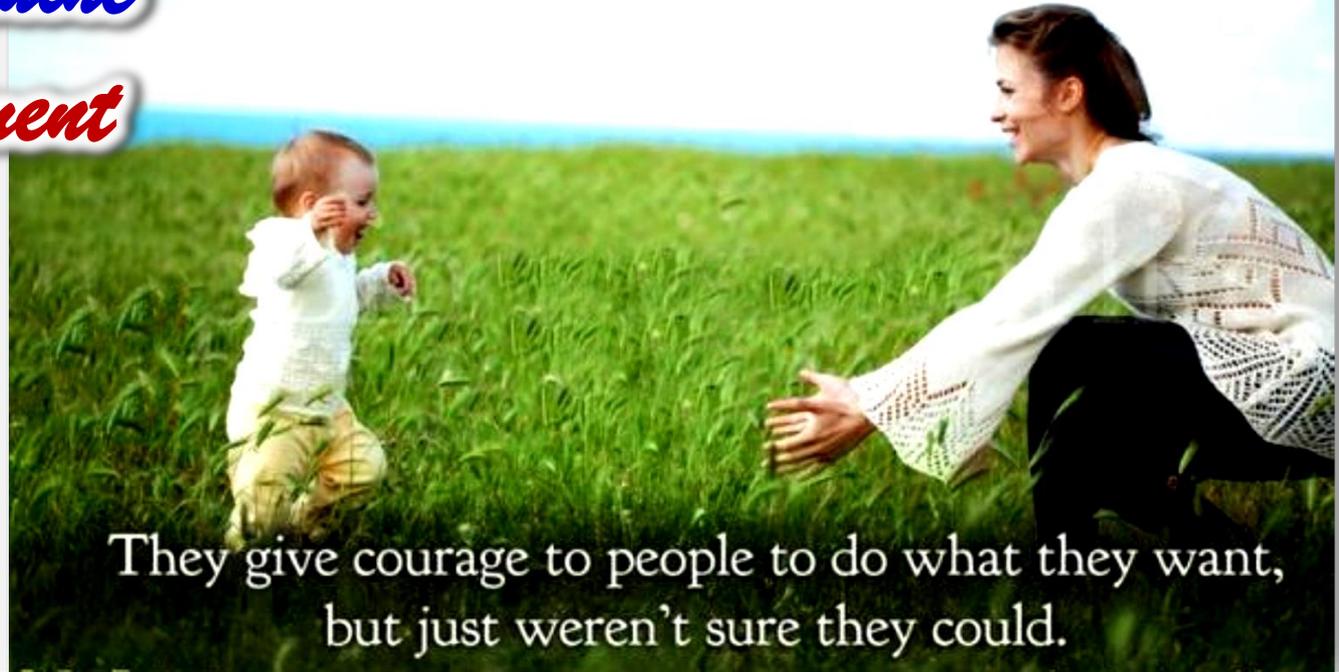
Prov 18:24 "A man of many friends comes to **RUIN** [1 Cor 15:33], but *there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*"

# Blessings of Church Membership

## 3. *Get Genuine Encouragement*

How important are words of encouragement?

They are the main reason you walk today.



“The action of giving someone *support, confidence, or hope.*”

They give courage to people to do what they want, but just weren't sure they could.

1 Thess 5:11 “*Encourage* one another, and *build up* one another, just as you also are doing. v.14 *Encourage* the fainthearted.”

You've got a **cheering squad** you may not get anywhere else!

Heb 3:13 “*Encourage* one another **day after day.**”

# Blessings of Church Membership

## 4. First Response Team To Rely on for Help

Food, Finance, Medical, Housing, Transportation, Child care, Emergencies, and Loss of a loved one.



Acts 2:45 “They began selling their property & possessions & were sharing them with all as anyone might have need.”

Acts 9:36 -39 Tabitha/Dorcas fell sick and died, disciples sent for Peter entreating him not to delay & Peter went to them ...”

Acts 11:29 “Each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. 30 And this they did..”

# Blessings of Church Membership

## 5. Loving Correction

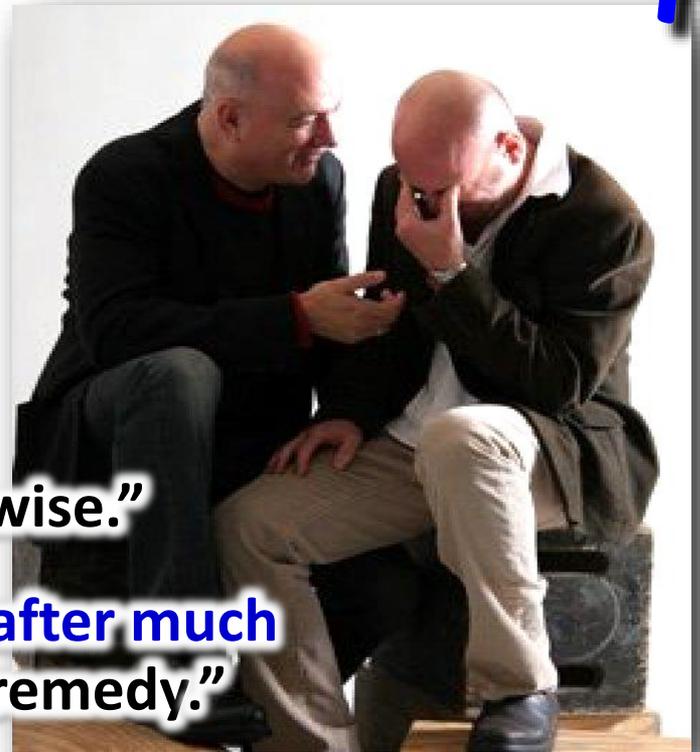
2 Tim 4:2 “**Reprove, rebuke**, exhort, with great **patience and instruction** .”

Prov 15:31 “He whose ear listens to the **life-giving reproof** will dwell among the wise.”

Prov 29:1 “A man who hardens his neck **after much reproof** will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.”

Prov 25:12 “Like **gold earring** or an **ornament of fine gold** is a **wise reprover** to a **listening ear**.”

Jude 22 “And **have mercy** on some, who are **doubting**;  
23 **save others** , snatching them out of the **fire**; and on some **have mercy with fear**, hating even the garment **polluted by the flesh** .”



# Blessings of Church Membership

## 6. Be Nurtured. *Growing to Maturity*



Eph 4:11 “Gave... evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,  
v.13 Until *we all attain..* the stature [of] the fullness of Christ.”

Acts 20:31 “So be alert! Remember that *I instructed each of you* for three years, day and night, *at times with tears in my eyes.*” (GWT)

Heb 10:24 “Let us consider how to *stimulate* (NIV *spur* ; AMP *stir up* ; NLT *motivate*) one another *to love and good deeds.*”

One doesn't get that God designed growth or mentoring alone— nor as a “church drifter.”

# Blessings of Church Membership

## 7. Zealous

Great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective.



2 Cor 9:2-3 “***YOUR zeal*** has stirred up most of them [The Macedonian Churches].”

Ps 69:9 “For ***zeal*** for Thy house has consumed me.”

“Walk with the dreamers, the believers, the courageous, the cheerful, the planners, the doers, the successful people with their heads in the clouds & their feet on the ground. ***Let their spirit ignite a fire*** within you to leave this world better than when you found it...”

Wilferd Peterson, American Author 1900-1995

# Blessings of Church Membership



*But  
Don't Expect  
Flawlessness*

*If a church was flawless—  
then the only people that  
wouldn't fit is **You and I**.  
(James 3:2)*

*"If you look for perfection,  
you'll never be content."  
— Leo Tolstoy*

***Empty** Ephesus (Rev 2:4)  
**Suffering** Smyrna (Rev 2:9 -10)  
**Poisoned** Pergamum (Rev 2:14 -15)  
**Tolerant** Thyatira (Rev 2:20 -21)  
**Sleeping** Sardis (Rev 3:1-3)  
**Powered** Philadelphia (Rev 3:8)  
**Lukewarm** Laodicea (Rev 2:16)*

