

A photograph of a church service. In the background, a banner reads "Is Now Celebrate Life Together!" with silhouettes of people raising their hands. The foreground shows the backs of many people seated in pews, looking towards the front of the church.

# SERMON OF THE WEEK

**“Blessings of Church  
Membership”**



# *Blessings In All Of Life*



*Beauty of Sunshine*

*Beauty of Rainier*

*Cute Puppies*

*Alpine Lakes & Campfires*

*Joyous Laughter*

*Great friends*

*Little Children*

*Good music*

*Great Conversations*

*Holidays*

*Color of Autumn leaves*

*Warm Hugs*



# *Blessings of Church Membership*



A. Church used in the sense of *Universal* :  
*Everywhere on Earth !*

Mat 16:18 “I will build *My Church*”

Eph 1:22 “Head over all things to *The Church*”

1 Tim 3:15 “The *family* of God which is *The Church*”



# Blessings of Church Membership

## **Blessings:**

**Salvation** – Acts 2:38

**Providence** – Rom 8:28

**Peace** – John 16:33

**Prayer** – Heb 4:16

**Joy** – Acts 8:39



(Acts 8:38) When the **Ethiopian (or anyone)** is baptized—they are automatically in God's Church everywhere on earth, not just one congregation.



# Blessings of Church Membership

B. **Church** used in the **Local** sense  
of a congregation  
in **One location!**



1 Thess 1:1 Church of the  
**Thessalonians** in God..

1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God  
which is at **Corinth**.

Phil 1:1 Saints in Christ Jesus who are in **Philippi**..

Gal 1:2-3 To the churches of **Galatia**: grace to you..

Acts 8:1 **Jerusalem**. Rev 2:1 **Ephesus**. Col 1:2 Colossae



# Blessings of Church Membership

Exploring...



**Some form** of **intent** is indicated (Rom 16:1, Col 4:9)

**Intent** indicated by **seeking** to associate (Acts 9:26a)

**Acceptance** is indicated by **the church** (Acts 9:26b)

**Recommendation** helps **introduction** (Acts 9:27-28)

**Family** needs to know who's a **member** (Heb 13:17)



# Blessings of Church Membership

## 1. Forever Friends



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

(John 15:13) "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.**" (18:24)  
"There is **a friend** who sticks closer than a brother."



# Blessings of Church Membership

How important are words of encouragement?  
They are the main reason you walk today.

## 2. Get Genuine Encouragement

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



1 Thess 5:11 ,14 “*Encourage* one another and *build up* one another.. *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

## 3. Loving Counsel

*Advice, Direction, Insight.*

Prov 27:9 “A man’s counsel is  
*Sweet* to his friend”



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

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

Prov 11:14 “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

## 4. Real Family 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 ..”

Acts 9:36 -39 Dorcus fell sick and died.. and  
Peter went to them ...”

Acts 11:29 “Each of them determined to send a  
contribution for the relief of the brethren in Judea.”



# Blessings of Church Membership

## 5. Loving Correction



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.”

Jude 22 “And **have mercy** on some, who are **doubting**; v.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.”

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. *Working together*

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



(1 Cor 15:58) “Always *abounding* in the work of Lord

Eccl 2:24 24 There is nothing better for a man than  
*to eat and drink & tell himself that his labor is good.*

We *clean the building*—but do it in teams, and  
to out for lunch or dinner afterward and have fun!  
There’s Benevolence we can do for *kids, for Saints*

# Blessings of Church Membership

But  
Don't Expect  
Flawlessness



*“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)

*Tolerant* Thyatira (Rev 2:20 -21)

*Sleeping* Sardis (Rev 3:1-3)

*Powered* Philadelphia (Rev 3:8)

*Lukewarm* Laodicea (Rev 2:16)



# There's a Fountain Free

