

## MEMBERSHIP DEFINITION

Church membership is the outward demonstration of one's inner commitment to identify with Christ and His followers, worship God with them, be taught the Scriptures, submit to God's ordained authority structure, selflessly serve other believers, and grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ together.

**TWELVE GOALS** we believe every church member should value and be striving to practice.

1. **Believe** wholeheartedly, 2. **Worship** regularly, 3. **Fellowship** devotedly, 4. **Serve** willingly, 5. **Pray** fervently, 6. **Give** generously, 7. **Study** diligently, 8. **Live** purely, 9. **Love** unconditionally, 10. **Speak** wisely, 11. **Evangelize** gracefully, and 12. **Walk** humbly.

## FOUNDATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP - Ridge Chapel

### **Belief in Jesus Christ**

(Matthew 16:15-16; John 3:16-17; John 6:28-29; John 20:31)

### **Repentance of Sin**

(Matthew 3:2; Acts 17:30)

### **Confession of Jesus as Savior and Lord**

(Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:8-13; 1 John 1:9)

### **Baptism by immersion for the forgiveness of sin to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**

(Acts 2:37-39; Acts 8:35-38; Romans 6:1-4)

### **After conversion, living a life worthy of the call of Christ**

(Ephesians 4:1-6; 2 Peter 1:3-8)

## (Section 3) Ridge Chapel BYLAWS ON MEMBERSHIP

*"Membership of Ridge Chapel shall be extended to all who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God; who publicly state their faith and their desire to be a part of this congregation; and who are immersed in obedience to the example and command of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 2:37-41; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:1-4; Romans 10:8-13).*

*Those coming from another congregation and desiring to be members of Ridge Chapel, having complied with the above, may do so by formally presenting themselves before the congregation for this purpose."*

## FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS - <https://www.ridgechapel.org/foundational-beliefs/>

### BIBLE

We believe the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. It reveals God's Character and His relationship with mankind.

### GOD

We believe in one eternally existing God who reveals Himself in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### JESUS

We believe that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, uniquely truly God and truly man.

### HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit fully indwells and empowers Christians.

<https://youtu.be/M4yLDEgU32Q> YouTube Link to "Why Baptism" sermon, 8/28/2022

<https://youtu.be/xX7Lg1a5Xpo> YouTube Link to "United We Stand" sermon, 9/21/2025

# The Value of Church Membership – 1 Corinthians 12:1-27

Why go to church services? Matthew 18:20; John 15:5

If you are here because you want to remain in Christ and you want Christ to remain in you, then you might be a candidate for local church membership.

## THE “WHY” OF LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Biblical Precedent	1 Cor. 1:1-3; 16:19; 12:12-27
Logical Assumptions	Acts 2:42-47; 4:4; 8:1b-4; 5-8; 26-39
Practical Examples	Acts 13:1-3; 14:22-23; Heb. 13:7,17; 1 Cor. 5:11-13

## THE “WHAT” OF LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- Definitions of local church membership
- Goals of local church membership
- Church membership is active and not passive

## THE “WHO” OF LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Whosoever will	Rev. 22:17
Those being saved	Acts 2:42
Those who “BELIEVE”	John 3:16-18

## THE “HOW” OF LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- Definition of Believe
- Faith Formulary
- Being “in Christ”

## THE “WHEN” OF LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- Source, Means, Time – Cottrell
- God-Appointed Moment – Alexander Campbell
- Baptized into Christ - Romans 6:3-7

## THE “WHERE” OF LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- Start with prayer
- Examine doctrinal foundations
- Experience worship
- Test the preaching
- Examine the leadership
- Evaluate outreach

“In Christ”

...we have eternal life. (Romans 6:23)  
...there is now no condemnation. (Romans 8:1)  
...we will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:22)  
...we are a new creation. (1 Corinthians 5:17)  
...we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. (Ephesians 1:7)  
...we who once were far away have been brought near. (Ephesians 2:13)  
...we will rise first. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)  
...we have peace. (1 Peter 5:14)  
...He has given us of His Spirit. (1 John 4:13)