

Sermon Title: “What is a Church Member?”

Primary Text: Titus 2:1-15

In our study in Titus, we have seen how God has given us guidelines for how we are glorify Him in how and why we do “church.” After spending the first few weeks looking at what a church is and how leadership is structured, Pastor Zach began our time in Chapter 2 looking at an overview, seeing how the teaching of sound doctrine charged to the Elders is lived out through the way the churches lives with each other, transformed by the Gospel, in hope for Christ’s future glorious return.

While it’s not uncommon to hear about church membership in terms of numbers and rolls, scripture describes a gathered people of God living in a way that displays the change that is wrought through Christ’s finished work on the cross and the ongoing sanctification through the Holy Spirit. Just as elders live their lives as examples, so does the congregation. While **formal** membership includes things like voting rights on select issues for the church, **true** membership is less about rights and more about shared faith and responsibility.

In anticipation of the coming weeks, we are reminded that the “how-to” sections that are to come are not there to *earn* our status within the church, they are rather tangible evidence of how God creates *His* community for His **Glory**.

Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:

James 1:22ff Acts 2:42ff

Questions to Consider this week:

- Pastor Zach opened the message with a reference to the kind of community that is idealized and glorified in popular television. Have you experienced that kind of community at Church?
- Think about how you’ve been involved in the life of the church in the last month. Have you been an active, real member of the church or just an attender?
- How can a confident faith and hope for God’s future glory give you strength and peace your tasks this week?
- Think about how you plan out your schedule. This week, look for ways to intentionally invest in the community of the church, especially in the encouragement of others.
- Write down **three people** you are praying for this week. If they are followers of Christ, pray they are encouraged by the hope of Christ’s future glory. If they are **not**, pray that you and other believers intentionally find ways to share the Gospel this week with them.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the hope we have in Your glorious future return. Thank you that because we can live together as your Church we can see how You are transforming our lives in how we live with one another. Give me a heart to care for, pray for, and actively share the Good News of Your saving work for us with those around us... especially in our community. -AMEN

Song for Personal Worship

“All Things” (Sovereign Grace Worship)

<https://youtu.be/KdzR2TnJeSw?si=jteMKn4K0leG-ht6>