

Church Membership

I. It is important to personally _____ yourself to a local church

1 Timothy 3:15

if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

- A. The local church is the family of God.
- B. The local church is the church of the living God.
- C. The local church holds up God's truth for all to see.
- D. The local church is the foundation of the truth.

II. It is important to make your commitment known to the _____ and the _____ of a local church.

- A. Your shepherds need to know you are committed, and you need to know your shepherds are committed to you.

1 Peter 5:1-3

1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

- B. The people in the church need to know you are committed to them, and you need to know the church is committed to you.

Galatians 6:10

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

1 Corinthians 5:11–13

11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? 13 God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

III. What does _____ look like at Crossway Church?

A. There are several steps in the process to become a member at Crossway.

1. Go through the “Get to Know Crossway” class.
2. Fill out the membership application.
3. Meet with Crossway pastors.
4. The new member and the church family make mutual commitments to one another in a public worship gathering.

B. There are many benefits to church membership.

1. One who is part of the church enjoys spiritual accountability.

Galatians 6:1–2

1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

2. One who is part of the church receives material and physical support from the church family.

Romans 12:13

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

1 John 3:17–18

17 But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

3. Members of the church pray for one another.

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Do you have **questions/comments** about *church membership* at Crossway that you would like to **discuss with a pastor?**

*** We want to answer your questions! Notes you make in this box at the end of each section can help jog your memory on things to bring up when you meet with a pastor as part of Crossway's membership process ***