



## Why I am a Member

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

People ask, “Why are you asking us to be members of the church of Christ?” I would like to give you five reasons that matter!

First, I’m a member because Jesus loves the church and died for it. His \_\_\_\_\_ should shape our attitudes. (Ephesians 5:25–30)

The New Testament describes the church as God’s \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 3:15). Jesus regards the church as His \_\_\_\_\_.

Second, I’m a member of the church of Christ, because Jesus is my \_\_\_\_\_ and I serve Him. Only Jesus has the words of \_\_\_\_\_. The only way to the Father, to heaven, is through Jesus Christ. Acts 4:12 says, “And there is \_\_\_\_\_ in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

According to Matthew 7:24 a wise person is one who hears His words and does \_\_\_\_\_. The foolish person hears His words but does not do \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus asked, “Why do you call Me, ‘\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Jesus obeyed His Father out of love and wants us to obey out of love too! “If you keep My commandments, you will \_\_\_\_\_ in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and \_\_\_\_\_ in His love” (John 15:10).

This is why in churches of Christ we \_\_\_\_\_ penitent believers for the forgiveness of their sins rather than sprinkle infants who don’t know what’s happening.

Third, I’m a member because the Lord adds the \_\_\_\_\_ to His church (Acts 2:41, 47). The phrase “\_\_\_\_\_” is a reference to the “church.” We need the strength of each other’s faith to keep us spiritually \_\_\_\_\_. We also need each other when we fail (Galatians 6:1–2). 1 Peter 2:9–10 describes who we are as Christians and \_\_\_\_\_ of the church.

Fourth, I’m a member because being “in Christ” means being in His \_\_\_\_\_, the church (Galatians 3:26–27). The Lord Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:5, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

What is this birth of water and spirit? It's \_\_\_\_\_. What is the kingdom of God? It's the \_\_\_\_\_, the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). We know the body of Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_, because the apostle Paul said so in Ephesians 1:22–23.

If I'm not in the church, I'm not "in \_\_\_\_\_." If I'm not "in Christ," I have no \_\_\_\_\_ and no hope (Ephesians 2:12). According to Ephesians 2:1, outside of Christ we are \_\_\_\_\_ in our trespasses and sins. Ephesians 2:19 describes what it means to be "\_\_\_\_\_ Christ."

Fifth, I'm a member of the church of Christ, because membership means being a \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven (Philippians 3:20–21; 1 Peter 1:3–5). The way to heaven is through Jesus and His \_\_\_\_\_!

The grace of God matters! I wouldn't want to live \_\_\_\_\_ day outside the grace of God, not one hour, not one minute, and not even one second without the promises of God! I wish everyone was a member of the church Jesus built. Please don't think you can \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Jesus and at the same time reject His church. You can't have one without the other. To enter the Lord's church, the Lord must \_\_\_\_\_ you. He will add you when you place your trust in Him and firmly believe in Him and His teaching. Believing the gospel means believing in His death on the cross, His burial, and His resurrection. It means believing you are accountable to Him and that He will one day come again from heaven to judge the world. Your faith in Christ means you must change your heart to turn away from sin and turn to righteousness; that is \_\_\_\_\_. It means you'll have to deny yourself so you can take up your cross daily to follow Jesus.

When faith, love, and repentance unite, it will move you to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ as the Son of God and to be \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ. When you are baptized the Lord will wash away your sins, cause you to be born again, and add you to His church. You will enter the kingdom of heaven and clothe yourself with Christ. God will consider you as one of His children. Baptism is the time God acts upon you and makes you one of His own. I hope and pray you will be baptized and become a member of the church today.