



# BECOMING A MEMBER

The New Testament is full of different ways of describing church, most of these are organic, talking of a church that is a living thing, comprised of people and not a static building. It's referred to as a body, the bride of Christ, living stones, a household, a sheepfold. Rather than going to church, people belong to a Church.

Membership is a sign of this belonging, here are five reasons we believe membership is important:

**1. The New Testament's structure:** The epistles are written to local churches on the assumption that all believers would be members of local churches.

**2. It is stated in the Bible:**

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about 3000 were added to their number... and the Lord added to their number daily (Acts 2:41&47).

Romans 12: 3 -7 Paul using the 'body' metaphor describes the church as being made of many members. This metaphor also describes an intimate relationship of oneness.

**3. It is implied in the Bible:** The descriptions of life amongst the early believers imply an up-close-and-personal local church community.

**4. New Testament language of leadership and followership:** The Bible cautions church leaders that they will be held to account for how they lead, and equally followers are instructed to obey their leaders. This obviously presupposes a situation where you know who you are leading and who you are following!

**5. New Testament discipline:** In cases of on-going unrepentance Paul instructed his churches to finally resort to putting people out of the church. Don't choose to live in this place voluntarily... join a church! Jesus spoke on this in Matthew 18. We desire to lovingly lead people to repentance that their joy may abound and that the church might be united.

Membership is for Christians who seek to follow Jesus and want to make Christ Central their home. If you'd like to become a member, fill in this short form [here](#).