

REDISCOVER CHURCH

Chapter 5 - Is Joining Actually Necessary?

Do Churches Really Have Authority?

The analogy is made in the book that churches are like embassies of heaven. An embassy in a foreign country bears the authority of that country.

A church bears the authority of heaven. A church cannot make a person a Christian; however, it has the authority to stand behind the claim of one who has declared themselves a Christian. How do we do that?

What does Matthew 16:13-20 tell us?

What does Matthew 18:15-20 tell us?

What Are The Ordinances?

The church has two ordinances - Baptism and the Lord's Supper

An ordinance is something that was taught by Jesus, practiced in the book of Acts, and explained in the Epistles. The church is expected to continue to do these things until the Lord returns.

What is baptism and who can get baptized?

Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2

What is The Lord's Supper and who can partake?

Matthew 26:26-29 & 1 Corinthians 11

What Is Church Membership?

How would you define church membership?

When a person joins a church they are submitting their spiritual care to the other members of that church. Remember that this works both ways.

"It's your way of saying, 'This is the particular group of Christians I'm inviting into my life and asking to keep me accountable for following Jesus. I'm asking them to take responsibility for my Christian walk.'" - Jonathan Leeman

Is It Enough To Belong To The Universal Church?

Do you need to become a member of a local church to be saved?

Do you need to become a member of a local church to get baptized?

Do you need to become a member to partake of The Lord's Supper?

Not at Bethel, although some church do require this.

About the only thing you can't do at Bethel if you are not a member is to teach regularly.

So then why should I join the church?

Is Church Membership Really Biblical?

In Matthew 18:17 and 1 Corinthians 5:2 we see the church removing someone from membership. This does not remove them from salvation; however, sometimes it is the church's way of saying that we are not sure that this person was ever saved.

In Acts 15, the church came together and made some significant doctrinal decisions.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

As a member of a church (and even if you aren't a member) we are expected to put our heart into the ministry at Bethel. God doesn't just want us showing up to hear a message and see friends. So, what should every child of God do?

Hebrews 10:24-25 -

Matthew 28:19-20 -