

Spiritual disciplines for a healthy church
2. Why do we join?

John Percival

Introduction

- Different attitudes to church?
- *“A gathering of Christians... covenanted together...”*

Where is church membership in the Bible?

- Implied in many NT texts (Acts 2:47, 1 Tim. 5:9-10, 2 Cor. 2:6)
- Teaching on church discipline (Matt. 18:15-17)
- Teaching on church leaders (Acts 20:28, Heb. 13:17)

Why is church membership important?

- For those who aren't Christians (John 13:35, Matt. 5:46)
- For other Christians (Rom. 12:10, 15:7, Eph. 4:32, Col. 3:13, 1 Pet. 3:8, 4:9, Heb. 10:25)
- For your leaders (Heb. 13:17)
- For yourself (Matt. 7:21)
- For God (Acts 9:4)

How can we make the most of membership?

- Deep and wide

Acts 2v42-47 (NIV)

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.