

A Biblical View of Church Membership

Selected Scriptures

Joshua Scarborough

Baptism vs. a birth certificate

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

STATE OF TEXAS
City of Austin Registration District

STATE OF TEXAS

1. Child's Name		2. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)		3. Sex	
First	Middle	Last	Suffix		
JOHN	DAVID	DOE		01/02/1950	MALE
4a. Place of Birth - County		4b. City or Town (if outside city limits, give precinct no.)		5. Time of Birth	6a. Purity - Single, Twin, Triplet, etc.
TRAVIS		AUSTIN		05:11 AM	SINGLE
7a. Place of birth		7b. Name of Hospital or Birthing Center, NPI (if Not Institution, Give Street Address)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Birth (Planned to deliver at home?) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		DGHTRS OF CHTY HTH SVCS OF AUSTIN-SETON MED CTR			
8a. Attendant's Name, NPI, and Mailing Address		8b. Certifier (I certify that this child was born alive at the place and time and on the date as stated.)			
ROSA MORENO 1301 W 38TH ST 201 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78745		MARIA ARELLANO Signature and Title		01/02/1950 Date Signed	
8b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MD <input type="checkbox"/> DO <input type="checkbox"/> CNM <input type="checkbox"/> Midwife <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):		9b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facility Administrator / Designee <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):			
10. Mother's Name Prior to First Marriage		11. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)		12. Birthplace (State, Territory or Foreign Country)	
First	Middle	Last			
JOAN	MARIE	BUCK	05/08/1926	CONNECTICUT	
13a. Residence - State		13b. County	13c. City, Town or Location	13d. Street Address or Rural Location	
TEXAS		TRAVIS	AUSTIN	900 SOUTH LAMAR # 207	
13a. Zip Code		13f. Inside City Limits	14. Mailing Address. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same As Residence, or:		
78704		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
15. Father's Name		16. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)		17. Birthplace (State, Territory or Foreign Country)	
First	Middle	Last	Suffix		
DAVID	JAMES	DOE		07/04/1918	RHODE ISLAND
18a. Local File Number		18b. Date Received by Local Registrar		18c. Signature of Local Registrar	
0218731		01/02/1950		<i>Roguel Moreno</i>	

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DATE ISSUED: *Roguel Moreno*
Registrar

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Membership vs. a passport



A Biblical View of Church Membership

- **Theme:** Every true believer should be formally connected to a biblical local church

I. What is church membership?

Definitions

- **Long**

- “Church membership is a formal relationship between a church and a Christian characterized by the church’s affirmation and oversight of a Christian’s discipleship and the Christian’s submission to living out his or her discipleship in the care of the church.”
—Jonathan Leeman

- **Short**

- A Christian officially submitting and belonging to a biblical local church

II. Where is membership in the Bible?

A. Membership "Rosters"

- **Acts 2:41-42** ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

B. "Ministry Lists"

- **1 Timothy 5:9** ⁹ A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, *having been* the wife of one man,

C. Removal from membership:

- **1 Corinthians 5:1-2** ¹ It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. ² You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

D. Membership "transfers"

- **Romans 16:1** ¹ I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea;

III. Who should be a church member?

- A. Only true believers in Jesus Christ!
 - Universal church vs. Local church – What's the connection?
 - "Membership in a local church is intended to be a testimony to our membership in the universal church." — Mark Dever
- B. Those who have been baptized as believers (Acts 2:41; 1 Cor 12:13)
- C. Those who hold to the inerrancy, sufficiency and authority of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)
- D. Those who submit to the church's leadership (Heb 13:17)

IV. Why should I join a church?

Church membership:

A. Is a picture of Gospel results (1 Cor 12:12-14)

“For when one is called into fellowship with God and made a member of the body of Christ, he is at the same time brought into fellowship with fellow members of that body.” — Robert Saucy

B. Is the New Testament expectation (1 Pet 4:10)

C. Trusts that Christ will build His church (Matt 16:18)

“If Jesus is committed to the church, should we be any less committed to it?”
— Mark Dever

D. Holds us accountable (Gal 6:1-2; 1 Cor 5:1-2; Matt 18:17; 1 Pet 5:2)

IV. Why should I join a church?

Church membership:

E. Gives opportunity to use our gifts (1 Pet 4:10-11; Eph 4:16)

“The gifts of the Spirit given to each member for the good of all are best expressed when met together.” — Robert Saucy

F. Let's us meet needs and have needs met (Rom 12:10-13; Gal 6:10; Phil 2:3)

G. Gives us a place to worship together

1. Encourage each other (Heb 10:24-25)
2. Sing together (Col 3:16)
3. Give money to gospel ministry together (1 Cor 16:1-2)
4. Pray together (1 Tim 2:8)
5. Sit under the Scriptures together (Acts 2:42)
6. Take the Lord's table together (1 Cor 11:26)

V. When should I join/leave a church?

A. When to join: As soon as possible!

B. When to leave:

- Voluntarily
- Reluctantly
- Involuntarily
 - Absence
 - Church discipline

A Biblical Understanding of Church Discipline

A. The Purpose of Church Discipline

1. Purity of Christ's church
2. Edify believers
3. Call sinner to repentance/restoration

B. The Process of Church Discipline

1. Step 1: Private Confrontation
2. Step 2: Witnessed Confrontation
3. Step 3: Public Confrontation
4. Step 4: Excommunication
5. Hopefully! Step 5: Repentance & Restoration

VI. How can I join a church?

At Countryside...

A. Commitments of Membership

B. Types of Membership

1. Youth
2. Adult

C. Process of Membership

1. Application
2. Class
3. Interview
4. Reception

A Biblical View of Church Membership

- **Theme:** Every true believer should be formally connected to a biblical local church

If you are a true believer in the gospel of Jesus Christ,
have been baptized,
are committed to God's perfect Word,
and are willing to submit to the leadership of a biblical church,
then yes, you should pursue church membership.

