

HALLMARKS
of a BIBLICAL
CHURCH MEMBER

**What Christ Requires
of Every True Christian in His Church**



WHAT THE HALLMARKS CLASS IS NOT

1. CBC Membership Class

- See our website (countrysidebible.org) and Joshua Scarborough

2. CBC Baptism Class

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WHAT THE HALLMARKS CLASS IS

Summary: 3-week elective Sunday School class exploring from Scripture the primary hallmarks of a biblical church member to encourage each other to pursue what the New Testament requires of the Lord's people.

Schedule:

- Week 1 – Participating in Corporate Worship
- Week 2 – Discovering Your Spiritual Giftedness
- Week 3 – Sharing a Common Life

WHAT CHRIST REQUIRES OF EVERY
TRUE CHRISTIAN IN HIS CHURCH



TOM PENNINGTON

"This is a book desperately needed at the present time."
RICHARD CALDWELL JR., *Pastor, Teacher, Founders Baptist Church*

TOM PENNINGTON has served as Pastor-Teacher at Countryside Bible Church in Southlake, Texas since 2005. In addition to his pastoral role at Countryside, Tom serves as Dean of the Dallas Distance Location at The Master's Seminary, teaches various seminary courses, and is actively involved internationally in training pastors in expository preaching. Tom's preaching and teaching ministry at Countryside is featured on *The Word Unleashed* (thewordunleashed.org).



WHAT CHRIST REQUIRES OF EVERY
TRUE CHRISTIAN IN HIS CHURCH



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In *Three Hallmarks of a Biblical Church Member*, Tom Pennington identifies from Scripture three non-negotiable hallmarks that every Christian must pursue to be a biblical church member. Tom challenges believers to assess their own involvement in Christ's church to determine if they are truly biblical members—not only for the health of the church, but for the glory of the One who gave His life for the church, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Tom's understanding of what the church is to be and how it is to function, is true to Scripture and well presented in this book."
STEVEN J. LAWSON, *President, One/Passion Ministries, Teaching Fellow, Ligonier Ministries*

"This meaty and satisfying book helps us love the church better through the pursuit of meaningful membership."
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THREE HALLMARKS of a BIBLICAL CHURCH MEMBER

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TRUE CHRISTIAN IN HIS CHURCH



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WHAT THE HALLMARKS CLASS IS

Setting: Not a sermon but lecture/classroom style.

- Feel free to ask questions and engage/grapple with the biblical text

Snacks:

- Please do **not** eat the food in the Chapel Lobby but you may get their coffee/tea/water.
- Please **do** eat the food we've provided in the back.
- Volunteers for next week?

THE ARGUMENTS FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. The NT Pattern of Connection to Local Churches
2. The Active Participation of NT Believers in Local Churches
3. The NT Commands to Elders of Local Churches
4. The NT Commands to Individuals regarding Local Churches
5. Implied by Church Discipline
6. God's Own Commitment to the Church

“The central error of modern thinking, surely, is that today men and women imagine they have the right to decide for themselves, anew and afresh, what Christianity is, what the church is, and what her message is.”

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES, STUDIES IN ACTS

WHAT IS A CHURCH? – DEFINITIONS

1. The English word, *church* comes from the Greek adjective, *kuriakos* (κυριακός, from the noun *kurios* κύριος) and means “belonging to the Lord.”
 - It occurs 2x in the NT—1 Cor. 11:20 “the Lord’s Supper”; Rev. 1:10 “the Lord’s day.”
2. The Greek word for “church” is *ekklesia* (ἐκκλησία), as translated in English Bible translations.

WHAT IS A CHURCH? – CATEGORIES

1. The *Universal* Church

- Every believer around the world (Eph. 5:24; Christ “gave himself up” for the church)

2. The *Local* Church

- A regular gathering of believers on the Lord’s day

WHAT IS A CHURCH? – DESCRIPTIONS

1. Believers are members of a body (1 Cor. 12:12ff.; Rom. 12:5)

A. You have a function to fulfill

B. You have a role to perform

2. Believers are members of a family (1 John 3:1; Gal. 6:10)

A. You have an obligation to the head of the family: God.

B. You have an obligation to the siblings of the family: other believers.

“You and I have obligations both to the head of the family—God the Father—and to our brothers and sisters in Christ.”

TOM PENNINGTON, THREE HALLMARKS...

PARTICIPATING IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

I. The Key Terms for Worship

A. Worship

- *Weorthscipe (worth-ship)* – means to acknowledge the quality or condition of worth in God.
- Daniel Block describes worship as an “attitude, gesture, and ritual [doing religious things].”

PARTICIPATING IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

I. The Key Terms for Worship

A. Worship

B. Corporate Worship

- Corporate means “pertaining to a united or collective group, or something joint.”

“It’s an entire local church joining together in worship, in seeing and savoring the worthiness of God, and responding to Him as He deserves.”

TOM PENNINGTON, THREE HALLMARKS...

PARTICIPATING IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

I. The Key Terms for Worship

II. The Priority of Worship in the NT

A. Jesus and Corporate Worship (Luke 4:14–21, 31, 44)

B. NT Church and Corporate Worship

- i. Christ was raised from the dead on Sunday (Matt. 28:1)
- ii. Christ appeared to the disciples on Sunday (John 20:19–23; 20:24–29)
- iii. The church began to meet on Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1–2)

PARTICIPATING IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

I. The Key Terms for Worship

II. The Priority of Worship in the NT

III. The Elements of Corporate Worship

SOLA SCRIPTURA AND THE PRINCIPLES OF WORSHIP

1. *Normative Principle* – Anything Scripture doesn't explicitly forbid is acceptable in corporate worship.

- Lutherans, Anglicans, and Roman Catholics

2. *Regulative Principle* – Only the activities Scripture explicitly prescribes are acceptable in worship.

- Baptists and Presbyterians

III. The Elements of Corporate Worship

1. Scriptural Singing

- “I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also....” (1 Cor. 14:15b)
- “...Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord....” (Eph. 5:19)
- “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Col. 3:16)

III. The Elements of Corporate Worship

2. Scriptural Prayer

- “First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men....” (1 Tim. 2:1)
- “Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.” (1 Tim. 2:8)

III. The Elements of Corporate Worship

3. Scripture Reading

- “Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching...” (1 Tim. 4:13)

III. The Elements of Corporate Worship

4. Scriptural Teaching

- “Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching...” (1 Tim. 4:13)
- “I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.” (2 Tim. 4:1–2)

III. The Elements of Corporate Worship

5. Scriptural Giving

- “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.” (1 Cor. 16:1–2)
- “For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord...” (2 Cor. 8:3)

III. The Elements of Corporate Worship

5. Scriptural Giving

- “Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor. 9:7)
- “You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.” (Phil. 4:15–16)

III. The Elements of Corporate Worship

6. Believer's Baptism

- “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:19–20)
- “So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.” (Acts 2:41)

III. The Elements of Corporate Worship

7. The Lord's Table

- “I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” (1 Cor. 11:23–26)

PARTICIPATING IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

I. The Key Terms for Worship

II. The Priority of Worship in the NT

III. The Elements of Corporate Worship

IV. The Practice of Corporate Worship

PARTICIPATING IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

IV. The Practice of Corporate Worship

A. Vertical Aspect of Corporate Worship—most importantly for God

- i. It must be done in truth (John 4:24)
- ii. It must be from the heart (John 4:24)
- iii. It must be done with others (Eph. 5:18–19; Col. 3:16)

B. Horizontal Aspect of Corporate Worship—secondarily for others

- i. It must be done with others (Eph. 5:18–19; Col. 3:16)
- ii. It must be done for others (Eph. 5:18–19; Col. 3:16)

PARTICIPATING IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

I. The Key Terms for Worship

II. The Priority of Worship in the NT

III. The Elements of Corporate Worship

IV. The Practice of Corporate Worship

V. The Day of Corporate Worship—Sunday, the Lord's day

PARTICIPATING IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

V. The Day of Corporate Worship—Sunday, the Lord's day

A. The OT Pattern

- i. Creation—God worked six days and rested on the seventh (Gen. 1–2)
- ii. Sabbath—God prescribed working six days and resting on the seventh (Exod. 20; 4th commandment)

B. The NT Pattern

- i. Jesus' Resurrection (Matt. 28:1)
- ii. Jesus' Post-resurrection Appearances (John 20:24–29)
- iii. Spirit's Coming at Pentecost (Acts 2)
- iv. The Lord's Day (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1–2; Rev. 1:9–10)

PARTICIPATING IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

V. The Day of Corporate Worship—Sunday, the Lord's day

A. The OT Pattern

B. The NT Pattern

C. The Early Church's Recognition

PARTICIPATING IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

I. The Key Terms for Worship

II. The Priority of Worship in the NT

III. The Elements of Corporate Worship

IV. The Practice of Corporate Worship

V. The Day of Corporate Worship—Sunday, the Lord's day

VI. The Preparation for the Lord's Day

VI. The Preparation for the Lord's Day

1. Theologically

- A. Pray: Ask the Lord to make you a dedicated participant of the Lord's day
- B. Act: Be resolved to be a dedicated participant of the Lord's day
- C. Delight: Aim to walk in joy on the Lord's day

“Delight in the Lord’s day as a high privilege bestowed upon you. Make it the matter of your holy joy. Give thanks to God your Creator, who has not suffered you to spend all your time in the drudgeries of this world, but has appointed one day in seven for your release from the business of earth, and for your employment in the work of heaven.”

ARCHIBALD HALL, GOSPEL WORSHIP

VI. The Preparation for the Lord's Day

1. Theologically

2. Practically

- A. Manage your weekly schedule (Monday – Saturday)

- B. Be intentional with your Saturday evening

- C. Mark and avoid all potential stumbling blocks on Sunday morning

PARTICIPATING IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

I. The Key Terms for Worship

II. The Priority of Worship in the NT

III. The Elements of Corporate Worship

IV. The Practice of Corporate Worship

V. The Day of Corporate Worship—Sunday, the Lord's day

VI. The Preparation for the Lord's Day

VII. The Practice of the Lord's Day

PARTICIPATING IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

VII. The Practice of the Lord's Day

- A. Commit to a minimum of 2 ministries at CBC on the Lord's day
 - i. Corporate worship
 - ii. Sunday school, serving, PM service, Awana, etc.
- B. Reduce the busyness of your day (even if those things are good) and focus on spiritual matters
 - i. Rest
 - ii. Spiritual disciplines
 - iii. Fellowship with believers

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