

## Rediscover Church • Week 5 • Is Joining Necessary?

1) Think about these words / concepts that can be quite scary to us, even when applied to the church:      - **Commitment**      - **Authority**      - **Oversight**

What is “scary” about each of these words?

On the flip side, how can these concepts be a blessing in our lives?

***We become Christians by the new birth. Churches are embassies of heaven, which Christ has tasked with affirming our heavenly citizenship. Church membership is how we formally recognize and commit to one another as believers. [It is] a church's affirmation and oversight of a Christian's profession of faith and discipleship, combined with the Christian's submission to the church and its oversight.***      - Rediscover Church, pg. 72 & 75

2) Read 1 Peter 5:1-5. Who is the ultimate authority in the church? What different groups does Peter instruct in these verses? What does he tell each group to do?

3) Is there anything wrong with the statement, “I don't need to join a local church. I already belong to Christ's universal church.” ... Why or why not?

4) What are the blessings of formal church membership? What are the responsibilities?

5) Read the part about baptism and the Lord's Supper on page 74 ... “Too often, Christians treat the ordinances individualistically.” Do you agree with this statement? If you agree this is a struggle, what could you do to help with this problem in your own life's practice, in your family, or even in your small group?

6) The church is “an embassy or outpost of the Kingdom of Heaven ... membership isn't just a status. It's an office or a job.” (pg.81) What do you think about this statement? What are the implications of church membership being “a job” ... Who is your boss? Who are your coworkers? What are your responsibilities? How do you get training?

7) Read the middle paragraph on page 83, about church membership not being a “passive” thing ... How is church membership different than other types of “memberships” you may hold? Where is God calling you to engage and invest in the life of our church?

## **Prayer Prompts**

- Think of someone in this church that you are significantly connected with, as you are both truly joined together in the same church family. Say a prayer of thanks for them and also a prayer of blessing or intercession over them.
- Ask the Lord to increase our church's membership – that more people will be saved, and that they will join with us in full partnership and community.
- Pray for our shepherds and church leaders of all types.

## **MEMBERSHIP PROCESS AT FIRST COLONY CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Here is what we ask people to do to complete our membership process at First Colony:

- Attend a New Member Info Session
- Fill out our membership form
- Have a casual visit with one of our shepherding elder couples
- Be baptized by immersion (if they have not previously been baptized)
- Have your membership announced (verbally, or simply printed in our order of worship)

***More info and helpful links about membership can be found here:***

*[firstcolonychurch.org/membership](http://firstcolonychurch.org/membership)*

***Always feel free to contact our Connections Ministry team:***

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