

**“I Am A Church Member:  
Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference”**

by Thom S. Rainer

Discussion Led by Pastor LeQuita H. Porter

**6-week Module on Church Membership**

Sunday, February 18, 2018 – Sunday, March 25, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

**Syllabus:**

**#1 – I will be a Functioning Church Member (Sunday, February 18)**

- a. We are ALL necessary parts of the Whole (*Read 1 Corinthians 12*)
- b. We are DIFFERENT but we still work together (*Read 1 Corinthians 13*)
- c. Everything we say and do is based on a biblical Foundation of LOVE (*Read 1 Corinthians 14*)
- d. Church Membership is ‘Functioning Membership’

**#1 Pledge:**

*I am a church member,*

*I like the metaphor (or comparison) of membership. It is not membership as in a civic organization or a country club, it’s the kind of membership given to us in 1 Corinthians 12: “Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it” (1 Cor. 12:27). Because I am a member of the body of Christ, I must be a functioning member, whether I am an “eye,” an “ear,” or a “hand.” As a functioning member, I will give. I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others. I will remember that “if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it: if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it” (1 Cor. 12:26).*

**Sign & Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

#2 – **I will be a Unifying Church Member** (Sunday, February 25)

- a. Unity (Read John 13:35; Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 3:14)
- b. Getting rid of Gossip and other Negative Talk (James 3:6; 1 Peter 3:10)
- c. Forgiveness and Unity (Matthew 6:14-15; Colossians 3:12-13)
- d. Sacrificing, Giving and Forgiving

**#2 Pledge:**

*I am a church member,*

*I will seek to be a source of unity in my Church. I know there are no perfect pastors, staff, or other church members. But neither am I. I will not be a source of gossip or dissension. One of the greatest contributions I can make is to do all I can in God's power to help keep the Church in unity for the sake of the gospel.*

**Sign & Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**#3 – I will NOT let my Church be about my personal preferences and desires**

*(Sunday, March 4)*

- a. The Servant Motif (or pattern) (*Ephesians 3:7*)
- b. Hindrances to Effective Church Membership
- c. The Mind of Christ (*Philippians 2:5-11*)

**#3 Pledge:**

*I am a church member,*

*I will not let my Church be about my preferences and desires. That is self-serving. I am a member in this Church to serve others and to serve Christ. My Saviour went to a cross for me. I can deal with any inconveniences and matters that just aren't my preference or style.*

**Sign & Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**#4 – I will PRAY for my Pastor and Other Church Leaders (Sunday, March 11)**

- a. Pray for the Pastor and Other Church Leaders
- b. Pray for the Pastor's and Other Leaders' families
- c. Pray for Pastor's and Other Leaders' stability and protection
- d. Pray for the Pastor's and Other Leaders' Physical and Mental Health

**#4 Pledge:**

*I am a church member,*

*I will pray for my Pastor and Other Church Leaders daily. I understand that the Pastor and Church Leaders work is never ending. Their days are filled with numerous demands that bring emotional highs and lows. They must deal with critics. They must be a good spouse and parent. Because my Pastor and Other Church Leaders cannot do all things in their own power, I will pray for their strength and wisdom daily.*

**Sign & Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**#5 – I will LEAD My Family to Be Healthy Church Members (Sunday, March 18)**

- a. Church and Family (*Read Ephesians 5:22-26, 32-33; Ephesians 6:1-4*)
- b. Praying together as a Family
- c. Worshipping together as a Family
- d. Falling deeply in love with the Bride of Christ (the Church) (*Romans 5:8*)

**#5 – Pledge:**

*I am a church member,*

*I will lead my family to be good members of the Church as well. We will pray together for our Church. We will worship together in our churches. We will serve together in our churches. And we will ask Christ to help us fall deeper in love with our Church because He gave His life for her (the Church).*

**Sign & Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**#6 – I will treasure Church Membership as a Gift (Sunday, March 25)**

- a. Biblical Perspective of the Church as a Gift (*Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Acts 3:19; Ephesians 12:8-9; 1 Cor. 12:27-28*)
- b. Universal or Local Church?
- c. Understand the Gift (*Matthew 20:26-28*)
- d. Church Membership is a Gift!

**#6 – Pledge:**

*I am a church member,*

*This membership is a gift. When I received the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, I became a part of the body of Christ. I soon thereafter identified with a local body and was baptized. And now I am humbled and honoured to serve and to love others in our Church. I pray that I will never take my membership for granted, but see it as a gift and an opportunity to serve others and to be a part of something so much greater than any one person or member.*

**Sign & Date:** \_\_\_\_\_