

MEMBERSHIP IN THE BODY

—STRONGER TOGETHER: FORMING RELATIONSHIPS 2—

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (ESV)

I. _____ IN THE _____ :

INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE _____

¹²For just as the body is one and has many **members**, and all the **members** of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one **member** but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the **members** in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single **member**, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the **members** may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one **member** suffers, all suffer together; if one **member** is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually **members** of it...

Individual Realities

- Each believer is given _____, placed into the _____, and _____ for _____.
- Each believer is _____ and dare not _____ other believers or think _____.

Corporate Realities

- The people of God will only function as intended when _____ is using their _____ to _____.
- The people of God need to value both _____ and _____ in terms of gifting, abilities, and backgrounds.

II. _____ MEMBERSHIP in a _____ : INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE _____

Individual Reasons

- You are formally _____ as _____. This is a role of the church (Matt 16:18-19; 18:15-20; John 20:21-23). (Though to be fair, churches also grant this recognition apart from membership, say, for example, by baptism.)*
- This is the _____ to _____ under the authority of a specific group of Christian leaders, as commanded in the New Testament (Heb 13:17; 1 Tim 5:17; 1 Pet 5:2).
- This gives you the spiritual _____ of formal _____ and _____ (Gal 6:1-5; 1 Cor 5:1-13).
- You are formally obligated to support the ministry of this church and to serve in the ministry of this church.*
- You are given the privilege of leading a ministry or teaching within the church.*
- It helps the church support you in some tangible ways.*

Corporate Reasons

- Official membership lets our church know who aligns with our beliefs, and who can be called upon to serve in certain capacities.*
- In our modern-day context, an official church membership is necessary for the _____ of Grace Bible Chapel.*
- Official membership helps protect the reputation of the church by enabling accountability and discipline for _____.*
- Official membership helps protect the reputation of the church by enabling accountability and discipline for _____.*

THE BOTTOM LINE

Clear in the Bible: _____ the _____ and a _____
_____ by believing in Jesus and being baptized.

This results in spiritual life.

Unclear in the Bible, but _____ Following Biblical Principles:
_____ to a local church through _____.

*This (Ideally! Hopefully!) helps your spiritual growth,
and (Ideally! Hopefully!) helps that church function.*

*These practical points flow not from the Bible directly, but from the constitution of Grace Bible Chapel or from our legal and social context.