

## ***WHY COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH MATTERS*** *(Selected Scriptures)*

Whether your Christian life began just yesterday or twenty years ago, the Lord's intent is that you regard commitment to His church a central priority in your life. Membership in the body of Christ, the local church, is a precious gift from God. It is a gift that we should cherish and treasure with great joy and gratitude. Since it is a gift and blessing from the Lord, formal church membership should not be taken for granted or considered lightly. We should therefore learn and understand the biblical reasons why we should commit ourselves to be a formal member of our local church.

- 1. Commitment to the church demonstrates \_\_\_\_\_.***  
Joining a church or committing oneself as a member of a local church will not save us. God's Word clearly teaches that our salvation is purely and exclusively by the grace of God through faith in the Lord Jesus and his finished work on the Cross when he died for our sins and rose again for our redemption (Eph. 2:8-9). Though church membership does not save, it however serves as an outward reflection of the reality of our salvation (Acts 2:41,47; 5:14; 16:5).

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- 2. Commitment to the church reinforces \_\_\_\_\_.***  
Our biblical accountability in terms of our commitment to the local church involves mutual responsibility to fellow believers and loving obedience to church leaders. The best place for Christians to exercise mutual love and concern for one another is in the assembly of God's people called the local church (Heb. 10:24-25). This is the reason why in the New Testament, we find numerous one another exhortations. Believers are exhorted to love one another, serve one another, bear with one another, confess sins to one another, build up one another and pray for one another (John 13:34; Rom. 12:10; Gal. 5:13; Col. 3:13; Jas. 5:16; 1 Thess. 5:11). As members of the local church, believers are also accountable to lovingly obey and submit to their spiritual leaders (Heb. 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13). We are instructed to respect and esteem our pastors and leaders because they are given the sacred task of caring for our spiritual welfare.

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- 3. Commitment to the church proves \_\_\_\_\_.***  
Finally, commitment to the church proves our love for the Lord Jesus. The greatest motivation we could ever find for being passionately committed to the church is that Jesus is passionately committed to the church. If we truly love the Lord, we too will love the church that He gave himself for (Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28; John 21:15-17).

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