

I Am a Church Member - Session 3

We have talked about what it means to be a biblical church member. It means that we are fully functioning where God has placed us. We each have a unique role to helping our church be all that it can be.

Our last session challenged us to be a UNIFYING church member. God commands that we be a unifying presence our church by lavishing one another with love, keeping our tongues in check by avoiding gossip and negative talk, and forgiving one another like Christ has forgiven us.

Being a unifying church member is challenging. Not only does it require that we love in word and deed through forgiveness and being conscious of what we say, but ultimately it means that we consider the needs of the whole over our personal preferences. This means we have to work to compromise in order maintain unity by setting aside what we want for what is best for everyone.

Mark 9:33-35 (New International Version)

³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. ³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

I Will Not Let My Church Be About My Preferences and Desires

From First to Last

- 'Me' versus 'We'
 - ◆ Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- Give Up, Give More
 - ◆ Galatians 5:13

The Servant Motif

- Serving IS Important
 - ◆ The word "servant" is found 57 times in the New Testament and "serve" is found 58 times.
- Finding Joy (Ephesians 3:7)
 - ◆ "We will never find joy...when we are constantly seeking things our way...True joy means giving up our rights and preferences and serving everyone else." Rainer, pg. 36

The Church of Me, Myself, and I

- Worship Wars
- Facility Focus
- Inwardly Focused Budget
- Attitudes of Entitlement
- Anger and Hostility
- Majoring in the Minors
- Program Driven
- Inordinate Demands for Pastoral Care
- Change over the Gospel
- Evangelistic Apathy

The Mind of Christ: Philippians 2:5-11 (New International Version)

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Session 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 Savior went to a cross for me. I can deal with any inconveniences and matters that just aren't my preference or style.

Sign & Date