

# What It Means To Be A Member Of The Church

**Introduction.** Generally speaking, most people in the religious world have a warped concept of the Lord's church. According to the Religious Tolerance website, there are 19 major world religions which are subdivided into a total of 270 large religious groups, and many smaller ones. There are also 34,000 separate groups who identify themselves as "Christian."

We are not discussing just "another church," we are talking about the church that Jesus built (Matthew 16:18). This church was built 15 centuries before Protestant churches, and six centuries before the Catholic Church. For our own benefit, this lesson will broadly examine what it means to be a member of the church of Christ, not according to tradition, but according to the word of God.

## I. ***It Means We Have A New Relationship***

- A. We are members of Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 20, 27; Ephesians 1:21-23).
- B. We are living stones in the spiritual temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Peter 2:5).
- C. We are married to Christ in a spiritual aspect (Romans 7:4; Ephesians 5:25).
- D. We are citizens in the kingdom of God (Colossians 1:12-13).
- E. We are children in God's spiritual family (Galatians 3:26-29).

## II. ***It Means We Enjoy God's Rich Provisions***

- A. We have the right of appeal to God our Father (Matthew 6:9; 1 Peter 3:12).
- B. We have fatherly care and protection (1 Corinthians 10:12-13; Philippians 4:5-7; 1 Peter 5:6-7).
- C. We have fatherly provisions for everything needful (Psalm 84:11; Matthew 6:33; 2 Corinthians 9:8).
- D. We have fatherly correction and chastisement (Hebrews 12:5-11; James 1:2-3, 12).
- E. We have fellowship with the saints (Acts 2:42; Romans 12:10).
- F. We have hope of an eternal inheritance (Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 3:29; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

## III. ***It Means We Enjoy Holiness, Sanctification, And Justification***

- A. We have been washed (Acts 22:16), sanctified (John 17:19), and justified (Romans 5:9).

- B. We engage in a holy calling to be saints (1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:9).
- C. We have to depart from unrighteousness to be faithful (2 Timothy 2:19).

**Conclusion.** It should be obvious that we cannot take membership lightly. Contrary to popular opinion, the church is not a “social club.” It is a serious institution with glorious results. You can be a part of it by believing (Hebrews 11:6), repenting (Acts 17:30), confessing Christ (Romans 10:10), and being baptized (Romans 6:3-4). Will you come and be a part of it?