

The Beauty of Church Membership

Adapted from the teaching of Joel Beeke,

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/search.asp?currsection=sermonstopic&keyword=the+beauty+of+church+membership>

- ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,
¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,
¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.
¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” *Ephesians 4:11-16 (ESV)*

I. THE BEAUTY OF RECEIVING CHRIST’S WORD

Personal Application: We Personally Hunger for the Word of God which Binds us together as the Family of God (Colossians 3:16).

Public Application: We Faithfully Attend Corporate Worship (Hebrews 10:25).

Practical Application: We Actively Listen to the Word of God (Luke 8:18; 1 Corinthians 3:1-2).

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| 1. holy appetite for the Word | 5. trusting the Word |
| 2. teachable spirit under the Word | 6. praying over the Word |
| 3. attentiveness to the Word | 7. practicing the Word |
| 4. meekness before the God of the Word | 8. speaking to others about the Word |

II. THE BEAUTY OF UNION WITH CHRIST’S PERSON

Personal Application: We Personally Trust in Christ (Colossians 2:6).

Public Application: We Make Diligent Use of the Sacraments (Baptism, the Lord’s Supper).

Practical Application: We Daily Obey Christ (John 14:15).

III. THE BEAUTY OF CONNECTING WITH GOD’S PEOPLE

Personal Application: We Personally Connect with the Body of Christ by Love (Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10).

Public Application: We Publicly Confess our Faith by Expressing Loyalty to this Church (Ephesians 4:1-3).

Practical Application: We Practice Hospitality (1 Peter 4:9).

IV. THE BEAUTY OF SERVING OTHERS FOR CHRIST

Personal Application: We Personally Serve with Zeal (Romans 12:1, 10-11).

Public Application: We Publicly Witness for Christ (Ephesians 2:10; 4:15).

Practical Application: We Practice Good Stewardship (1 Peter 4:10-11; 2 Cor. 9:6-11).

V. THE BEAUTY OF GROWING INTO CHRIST’S IMAGE

Personal Application: We Personally Humble Ourselves (Philippians 2:3-4).

Public Application: We Faithfully Attend Corporate Prayer Meetings (Acts 1:14).

The Secret Power in the Church is Prayer in the Spirit: “Pray me Full and I will Preach you Full.”

Whatever your gifts, every member can and should pray for his church.

Practical Application: We Engage in Meditation (Psalm 119:15).

Follow the Tried and True Process: Read-Meditate-Pray.

Recover what has been Lost, The Divine Art of Meditation.¹

¹ Thomas Watson, *The Christian on the Mount: A Treatise on Meditation*. Orlando: The Northampton Press, 2009.