



***LIFEgroup Discussion Questions***  
***February 21, 2010***  
***The Church: Belong to Become***  
***Members of Christ's Body***

**Read 1 Corinthians 12.12-31**

1. What imagery does Paul use to explain the body of Christ?
2. Who is a member of the body of Christ (12.13)?
3. What is the work of the Holy Spirit involved in one becoming a member (12.13; Titus 3.5)?
4. What does Jesus pray for the church in John 17.11, 20-23? Why is unity in the church, so important according to Jesus?
5. Why are members placed in the roles that they are in (12.18)? Who does this placing and why?
6. Paul does not want division in the church, but instead wants the members of the church to be united in another focus. What is that (12.25-26)?
7. Discuss the different roles that Paul mentions to the church at Corinth (12.27-31). How should they do these roles and what should their motivation be (12.31-13.8)?
8. Why should Christians become members of a church?
  - a. *What Scripture says about membership:*
    - Identity. As members we identify with one another as being part of the body of Christ (Ephesians 2.19; Romans 12.5)
    - Provision. Members of the church are provided with support, encouragement, care, accountability, and tools of growth (Galatians 6.1-2; Hebrews 10.24-25; 1 Corinthians 12.26-27; 2 Thessalonians 3.14-15; Ephesians 5.21)
    - Protection. Members of the church have the spiritual protection of godly leaders (Hebrews 13.17; Acts 20.28-29; 1 Peter 5.5)
    - Ministry. As members of a church we discover gifts and are to use the gifts God has given us (1 Corinthians 12.4-5, 12.)
  - b. *Why We Encourage Church Membership?*

At The Ridge Church we believe participation in membership is important. Membership is important because:

- *Jesus is committed to the church.* Jesus loved the church and gave His life for it (Ephesians 5.25). The church is the bride of Christ. The gates of hell will not stand against the church. Jesus one day will return for His church. Just as Jesus is committed to the church He wants us to be committed to the church.
  - *The church is to be different.* In an age when people bounce from one thing to the next and never seem to commit to anything the church is to be different. Church membership is stating that you want to be committed to God's church through this local church.
  - *The membership needs to be identified.* We need to know who is on the team. We need to know who the family members are. There are churches that exist only to meet your needs as a consumer. We are not here to kick back on the cruise ship of life. We are here to equip you with what you need for the race that God has before us. It has been said, *it is a daunting task to change a place from a bunch of consumers to servants.* It is, but we must. We need to know the servants.
  - *Christians need community.* The Christian life lived alone is unbiblical. We are called to be a people, a community and family. We need each other to help one another grow in our relationship with Jesus. We need to be accountable to each other. Being committed to a church brings accountability and the encouragement of growth.
9. What are some dangers of not becoming members of a local church?

## **Pray**