

Is Church Membership Important?

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Acts 2:41-42, 46-47

I. If You Are Thinking About Salvation — No!

1. Church membership does not save.
2. Salvation is by God's grace, through the believer's faith, and not through human efforts.
3. the church does not seek unsaved members who join the church as a rich man checks in a hotel.

II. If You are thinking about a born-again Christian — Yes!

1. Evidently the Church is important to God.
 - A. Eph. 5:25 — "Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it."
 - B. Acts 20:28 — "He purchased it with His own blood."
 - C. Eph. 5:27 — He wants it to be "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing."
 - D. Col. 1:18, "He is the head of the church."

2. Therefore the church is important to the Christian.

A. Because of our obedience to Christ.

(1) what are His commandments?

(2) story of Russian gunner captured in the Napoleonic war.

B. Because the church provides a channel for us to show our love for and loyalty to our Lord -

— a missionary to China was received into church membership at the age of 8. afterwards he said,

"Had I not taken that step then, I doubt whether I should ever have been a missionary, or even a member of a church at all."

C. Because it provides an opportunity for an open, public profession of faith.

(1). Confessing Him as His witnesses. Mt. 10:32

(2). when a Christian evades a public profession of his faith he does as much violence to his spiritual nature as he would do to his social nature were he to become a hermit

D. Because it offers an opportunity for fellowship with other Christians -

(1) story of old sea Capt. & young man.

Concl. - members themselves should be added to the church - not just their names.