

FACULTY OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

COURSE CODE: [FCM 105]

COURSE TITLE: THE POWER AND PURPOSE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

TEXT

1Corinthians12:27

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Psalms92:13

Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Hebrews10:25

not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

INTRODUCTION

We live in an age that values freedom and at the same time downplays the importance of spiritual commitment. Many in our day have altogether stopped going to church all together. The proliferation of online churches though a viable idea has become a substitute for church attendance altogether. There is no better time to assert the scriptural rationale for physical church membership and commitment. This class will do just that.

A. THE FIVE DESTINY DETERMINING DECISIONS.

1. YOUR DECISION FOR CHRIST.

John3:7

Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

2. THE DECISION OF WHO YOUR PASTOR IS.

Jeremiah3:15

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

The decision of your Pastor is the discovery of your Pasture because your Pasture is with your pastor.

3. THE DECISION OF YOUR CHURCH

1Corinthians12:27

Now ye are the body of Christ, members in particular.

4. THE DECISION OF YOUR LIFE'S WORK

Ephesians2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

5. SHOULD YOU BE CALLED TO GET MARRIED, THE DECISION OF WHO YOUR LIFE PARTNER IS.

Hebrews13:4

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

In this course, we will focus on the discovery of your Church and why this is important to your establishment as a believer.

B. TEN REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF A CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST ON EARTH.

1. YOUR CHURCH IS YOUR PLACE OF SPIRITUAL COVERING AND PROTECTION.

Isaiah4:5

then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering.

2. YOUR CHURCH IS YOUR PLACE OF SYSTEMATIC SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

Isaiah25:6-8

And in this mountain The Lord of hosts will make for all people A feast of choice pieces, A feast

of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees. And He will destroy on this mountain The surface of the covering cast over all people, And the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.

Matthew24:45-46

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

3. YOUR CHURCH IS YOUR PLACE FOR THE EXPERIENCING THE CORPORATE ANOINTING OF GOD AND COMMANDED BLESSINGS OF GOD.

Psalms133

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing- Life forevermore.

4. YOUR CHURCH IS THE DIVINELY APPROVED PLACE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR SERVICE, OFFERINGS AND SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES.

Deuteronomy12:13-14

Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see; but in the place which the LORD chooses, in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you.

Matthew23:17-22

Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.' Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

Ezekiel20:40

For on My holy mountain, on the mountain height of Israel," says the Lord GOD, "there all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, shall serve Me; there I will accept them, and there I will require your offerings and the firstfruits of your sacrifices, together with all your Holy things.

5. YOUR CHURCH IS A PLATFORM FOR THE DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS AS YOU YIELD IN SERVICE.

Philemon1:6

that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

6. THE CHURCH IS BEAUTIFUL FOR THE SITUATIONS AND CHALLENGES THAT LIFE WILL THROW AT US.

Psalms48:1-3

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great king. God is known in her palaces for a refuge.

James5:13-16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

7. BEING IN CHURCH PUTS YOU IN THE FLOW OF DIVINE INCREASE THE COMES FROM MEMBERSHIP CONNECTION

Ephesians4:16

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Colossians2:19

and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

8. THE CHURCH IS YOUR PLACE OF MATURATION INTO THE FULL STATURE OF CHRIST

Ephesians4:9-15

(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things,) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

9. YOUR CHURCH IS THE FOUNDATION FOR YOUR FLOURISHING AND PROSPERITY

Psalms92:13

Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Psalms122:6

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.

10. THE CHURCH IS A PLACE THAT PROVIDES ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCIPLINE THAT HELPS US GROW IN CHRIST.

James5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Judges18:27-28

So they took the things Micah had made, and the priest who had belonged to him, and went to Laish, to a people quiet and secure; and they struck them with the edge of the sword and burned the city with fire. There was no deliverer, because it was far from Sidon, and they had no ties with anyone. It was in the valley that belongs to Beth Rehob. So they rebuilt the city and dwelt there.