

Tonight... Welcome!

I. Introduction...

Most of us belong to many organizations - as members (**Ex. Name a few? Why a member?**)

Whether membership in a church is formal or informal, there is a difference between "attenders" and "members" that can be summed up in one word: **COMMITMENT.**

QT: Vince Lombardi- "Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

II. Membership DEFINED.

1. Realize could be a "Hot Button" issue

Negative connotations... especially in Utah
But, as pastors convinced - **positive thing.**

2. Membership defined:

QT: "The essence of church membership is the commitment to belonging to something so much greater than any one of us individually. We are thus motivated to give, serve, love, and care for one another for a grander purpose."

Membership in the **UNIVERSAL** church. [Ekklesia (Gk)] ñ includes all believers.

Membership in the **LOCAL** church ñ individual choice.

Trans: We'll talk about **Membership** as expressed at the Local Level - (A choice!)

I. Five Reasons Church Membership is **BIBLICAL:**

1. It is the perfect Biblical **METAPHOR**

Think body members (limbs) not club membership!

1 Corinthians 12: 27 "Now you are the **body** of Christ, and individual **members** of it."

2. A member is made for **BELONGING.**

To belong to an incredible gift given to us by God.

Galatians 6:10 "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Ex. Peyton Manning's Arm - if cut off, useless!

3. A member is made for **CONTRIBUTING.**

Variety of gifting. Every **member** can contribute.

Ephesians 4:16 "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

4. A member is made for **UNITY.**

Part of something **greater than ourselves**-body of Christ!

Ephesians 4:13 "...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

5. A member is made for **CARING.**

Since same body-motivated to care for all members.

1 Corinthians 12:25 "So there would be no division in the body, but the members would have the same concern for each other."

QT: Church membership does not mean we get perks and privileges because we "pay our dues." It means we pledge to give, sacrifice, and serve Christ by serving side by side with others.

1. A Cultural Reason: It is an antidote to our **SOCIETY.**

Membership swims against the current of America's noncommittal "consumer religion." It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

QT: Peter Drucker ð "Unless commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes ... but no plans."

2. A practical reason: It **DEFINES** who can be counted on.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership & commitment identifies our family.

Ex. Church is Army, Body, Family (Band of Brothers, Frat, Football team, BODY)

3. A Personal reason: It **PRODUCES** spiritual growth.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family

EX: Church Hoppers Not spiritually strong ñ often critical complainers!

Ex. Gal: "I didn't like your service. My church plays hymns and teaches verse by verse. " We'll miss you! ;-))

III. Why **JOIN** The Rock Church?

What makes us unique? What getting in to? ;-)

1. OUR **HISTORY...**

- We are a GREAT Commission Church (See www.gccweb.org)
- Planted The Rock Church in **Sandy-October 17, 1999.**
- **Downtown,** October 4, 2003!
- **Provo,** Sept 17, 2007! (Goal: 20 services by 2020)
- **West,** January 19, 2015

2. OUR **VISION & MISSION...**

- **Vision Statement:** "One life at a time, one WORLD in our lifetime."
- **Mission Statement:** "WIN the lost, BUILD the believer, SEND the sanctified."

3. OUR **PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY...**

- We are a "Non denominational, BIBLE-based evangelical church."
- We are NON-charismatic (but very excited!)
- We believe in the Great COMMISSION
 - (Matt. 28:19,20; Outreach class, evangelical emphasis)
- We believe every member is a MINISTER-serving! (Eph 4)

4. OUR **SMALL GROUP EMPHASIS...**

- SG's are the Heartbeat our church - not an appendage, not really in church if not on SG.
- We practice the Ephesians 4, "One -ANOTHER " verses; community, not just Bible study.

5. OUR **LEADERSHIP STYLE...**

- CHARACTER based (1 Timothy 3 & Titus 1 qualifications) - Not degree on wall.
- We practice In - HOUSE apprentice training (One on one, leadership mtgs, Both men & women).
- We believe in the Plurality of ELDERS/PASTORS.
- We are "Elder Led" in our church polity.

Trans: Join us on our mission- give up your life w/ us!

II. Three Reasons Membership is **HELPFUL:**

IV. The Rock Church Membership COVENANT.

At The Rock we would never ask our members to do more than the BIBLE clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in The Rock Church Membership Covenant.

1. BY GOD'S GRACE, I HAVE DONE THE FOLLOWING:

- Repented of my sin, trusted in Jesus and am now a Born-Again Christian
- Have been Biblically baptized
- Watched all sessions of Base Camp, or have a pastor's approval of completion
- Agree with and embrace The Rock Church Vision & Mission Statements
- Understand and embrace The Rock Church affiliation with Great Commission Churches

2. BY GOD'S GRACE, I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING TRC STATEMENTS:

- Statement of Faith (Initial: _____)
- Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Initial: _____)
- Statement on Church Discipline (Initial: _____)
- Statement on Church Mediation (Initial: _____)
- Statement on Sanctity of Life (Initial: _____)

3. BY GOD'S GRACE, I will be faithful to honor God as a part of THE ROCK CHURCH:

- By regularly attending with a heart to grow as a Christian
- By living a Godly life to the best of my ability with the help of the Holy Spirit
- By regular financial giving to God through The Rock Church

4. BY GOD'S GRACE, I will unite with the goals, vision and mission of THE ROCK CHURCH:

- By inviting others to attend and welcoming those who do
- By supporting the changes that growth brings
- By serving my church with the gifts and talents God has given me
- By committing to The Rock Church as my home church rather than attending many

5. BY GOD'S GRACE, I will support the leaders of THE ROCK CHURCH:

- By praying for them
- By following their leadership
- By refusing to gossip

6. BY GOD'S GRACE, I will love the fellow members of THE ROCK CHURCH:

- By living out the "one another" verses in the Bible.
- By refraining from that which produces disunity or division between members.
- By being open and accountable with others for the sake of my Christian growth.

V. Time For Action...

1. Join the mission
2. Become the member God wants you to be!
3. PRAY