



ECCLESIOLOGY

Church Membership and *Church Culture*



Church Membership

A Working Definition

Covenant Community

Assemblies that covenant to be the church for each other.

Church Member

Is someone who promises to be a local expression of people:



Church Membership

A Working Definition

- Committed to **TRUST** Christ
- Committed to **WORSHIP** God
- Committed to **LOVE** – exhort, admonish, hold accountable – in ways commanded in the NT
- Committed to **HEAR** the word of God preached
- Committed to **PERFORM** Christ's ordinances



Church Membership

Why Covenant Communities?

They **RETELL** the **STORY** of Christ

Two Kinds of Membership

1. Organizational = **RECIPIENTS** and **CONSUMERS**
2. Ecclesial = **MINISTERS** and **SERVANTS**



Church Membership

Five Clear Implications for Church Membership

1. The assumption of Church Discipline

- **MATTHEW 18:15-17**

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.



Church Membership

Five Clear Implications for Church Membership

2. The assumption of Excommunication

- **1 CORINTHIANS 5:12-13**

¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”



Church Membership

Five Clear Implications for Church Membership

3. The assumption of submission by Christians to their leaders, elders, or pastors

- **HEBEWS 13:17**

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.



Church Membership

Five Clear Implications for Church Membership

4. The assumption of the Elders' care for the Flock

- **ACTS 20:28**

²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

5. The assumption of the "Body"

- **1 CORINTHIANS 12**



Church Membership

What should members expect from one another?

1. Love

- JOHN 17
- GALATIANS 5

2. Exhortation and Admonishment

- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:14

¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

- COLOSSIANS 3:13, ROMANS 5:14



Church Membership

What should members expect from one another?

3. Accountability

- **EPHESIANS 4:25**

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

- **PROVERBS 27:17, GALATIANS 6:12, EPHESIANS 4:1**



What should members expect from their leaders?

1. Teaching

1 TIMOTHY 5:17

¹⁷ Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.



Church Membership

What should members expect from their leaders?

1. Teaching
2. Protection

HEBREWS 13:17

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.



Church Membership

What should members expect from their leaders?

1. Teaching
2. Protection
3. Godliness Modeled

HEBREWS 13:7

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.



Church Membership

What should members expect from their leaders?

1. Teaching
2. Protection
3. Godliness Modeled
4. Sober and Humble Leadership

HEBREWS 13:17

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.



Church Membership

What should members expect from their leaders?

- 1 Teaching
2. Protection
3. Godliness Modeled
4. Sober and Humble Leadership
5. Love and Joy

HEBREWS 13:17

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.



Church Membership

How should members respond to their leadership?

HEBREWS 13:17

Limits to Obeying and Submitting

1. Bad Eldership | **ACTS 20:30**

²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.



Church Membership

How should members respond to their leadership?

HEBREWS 13:17

Limits to Obeying and Submitting

1. Bad Eldership | **ACTS 20:30**
2. Another Gospel Preached | **GALATIANS 1:8**

⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.



Church Membership

How should members respond to their leadership?

HEBREWS 13:17

Limits to Obeying and Submitting

1. Bad Eldership | **ACTS 20:30**
2. Another Gospel Preached | **GALATIANS 1:8**
3. An Elder in Unrepentant Sin | **1 TIMOTHY 5:19-20**

¹⁹ Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁰ As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.



Church Membership

How should members respond to their leadership?

HEBREWS 13:17

Limits to Obeying and Submitting

4. Spiritual Abuse | **1 PETER 5:2-3**

² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.



Church Membership

How should members respond to their leadership?

HEBREWS 13:17

Limits to Obeying and Submitting

1. Bad Eldership | **ACTS 20:30**
2. Another Gospel Preached | **GALATIANS 1:8**
3. An Elder in Unrepentant Sin | **1 TIMOTHY 5:19-20**
4. Spiritual Abuse | **1 PETER 5:2-3**

Limits aren't opportunities but safeguards



Church Membership

How should members respond to their leadership?

Obey: "be persuaded by" (**HEBREWS 6:9**), "trust" (**HEBREWS 2:13**), "rely on" (**LUKE 11:22**)

Submit: to yield; to make room; retiring from a seat

The People of God's Posture Towards Leaders

- Trusting their leaders
- Supporting – in attitudes and actions – their goals
- Desiring to imitate their faith
- Having a happy disposition when complying



Church Membership

MACC's Covenants – Discipleship and MACC Group Covenants

MACC Groups Structure

What are MACC groups?

MACC groups are local, urban missional communities of people that gather weekly to share life and truth, love God and one another, and engage the social and spiritual needs of our Community. They are family/people-based and inter-generational/ethnic, a place where the church can be the church to one another and to the Community.

MACC Groups are grounded in Four Principles and shaped by Four Practices.

The Four Practices

SHARE	→	truth and life
PRAY	→	for one another and the City
ENGAGE	→	people and culture
LOVE	→	one another

The Four Principles:

We all are broken:

We are all more broken than we want to admit, and God is more holy than we comprehend.

We all need Jesus:

In Jesus we are more forgiven and accepted than we can imagine, and God is more delighted in us that we understand.

We all need one another:

We need each other to share our struggles and joys in following Jesus.

The world needs the gospel:

The gospel offers the hope of justice, the clarity of truth, the comfort of grace, and joy of Jesus to a broken world.

How Does It Work?

MACC Groups begin with a two-hour weekly commitment. We gather with no more than four families. During this time we share a meal together, communion and our lives. Facilitated by a leader, our time together will include prayer, discussing the weekly message and/or book of the Bible.

The dinner responsibility is rotated weekly. The expectation is that these groups would be joyful, simple, real, biblical, and missional. Once every four weeks, MACC Groups serve their local communities through MACC Outreach.

The Focus Of Our Discussion

God- What does this text reveal to me about God? (*His Character*).

Community- What does this text reveal about me and us as a group? (*His People*).

Missional- What does this text reveal about our context as missionaries? (*His Mission*).

Multiplying

The expectation is that each family is willing to lead a MACC Group when appropriate. This means either leaving your current group to start another or continuing with that group while starting another. This decision is jointly based on the desire of your group and discernment of the families.



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The MACC Discipleship Covenant

A disciple is one who loves God, our Lord Jesus Christ, with all his heart, soul, and mind, and tries to become more and more like him through a life of faith and obedience.

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this Discipleship Covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

I agree to this resolution and resolve that only through the power of the spirit by faith will I be able to pursue the following:

- Be committed to Grow and be who I am called to be in Christ
- Be faithful, available and teachable as I am being trained and training others in experiencing Jesus.
- Be committed to the community we are serving and the covenant community I am serving with.
- Be committed to walking by faith, communicating my faith, serving by faith, and multiplying my faith.

I resolve to be trained and to train others in the following areas to fulfill my destiny in Christ to make disciples:

Word

Make sense of God's word and God's world. We want to become people who learn how to study and apply the word of God to their lives and then teach others how to study the word and apply it to their lives.

Relationship

Make a practice of being with those I am in a group with and those that I will eventually lead. Jesus shows how important the developing of the relationship is to growing a disciple in Christ. The people of MACC should know they are loved not only by Christ but also by their discipler.

Ministry

Following Jesus' model and command of ministry that include gospel, proclamation, and the serving of others, namely, the poor and marginalized,



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Church Membership

Our Membership Process

ECCLESIOLOGY

**We Kick It
We Challenge
We Do Life**

MACC Church Covenant Affirmation





ECCLESIOLOGY