

**Faith Christian Fellowship  
Sunday, February 7, 2016  
Members of One Another**

**2: What Does it Mean to be a Church Member?**

**Text:** Romans 12:4-5 / 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

God wants us to have a covenant, family relationship with a local church Body.. We need to be connected to other believers. 3 aspects of what it means to be a member of FCFT. Last time "What it means to be a Christian" Today" What does it mean to be a church member?

Let's look at the story of the first members: Acts 2:42-47

**Questions:** What stands out to you as characteristic of these first gatherings of believers?

1) Understanding church is a family –

a) 1 Tim 3:15 / Eph 3:5 / Ephesians 2:19. – siblings and a Father

**Questions:** When you hear the word "family," what do you picture in your mind? Does your idea fit with God's idea of the family? How can you change your thinking to fit God's?

b) Bound by blood: the life of God in our veins 1 Jn 5:12

i) Bound by belief – like precious faith -1 Peter 1:1

ii) Bound by vision – God has a purpose in our planting – 1 Thess 5:13 for the work's sake

iii) Bound by planting – God puts people in our lives for a reason – Ps 92:13

iv) Bound by conscious and intentional submission to established spiritual authority. Heb 13:17 / 1 Cor 16:15-16

**Questions:** How can you help your local church develop a "family" mindset?

2) Understanding covenant - 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

a) The same loaf – one Body in God 1 Corinthians 12:27

b) The cup of blessing – intermingled life, Lev 17:11

i) An exchange of names, of clothing, of tokens, of weapons.

ii) An exchange of vows –the terms of the covenant

**Questions:** What practices in society reflect covenant ideas?

3) What is in our loaf? The FCFT covenant

a) Commitments of the pastoral ministry

i) We will provide quality spiritual food. Acts 20:28 / 1 Tim 4:1-4

ii) We will strive to create an atmosphere (culture) of healing, growth, and worship. Acts 4:32-34

iii) We will make provision for mentoring, counseling, and support during times of family and personal transitions. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 / Rom 12:15

iv) We will make certain that members receive priority in materials, opportunities, ministry, and facilities. Heb 13:16 / 6:10-11 / Gal 6:10

v) We will have you in our heart. You will be prayed for and loved. Phi 1:3-11; Rom 1:9; Eph 1:14-23; 1Th 1:2

vi) We will value your gifts, your office and your point of view. 1 Corinthians 12:23-24. / 1 Pet 4:10

vii) We will stand up for you and stand with you. I am on your side, right or wrong. 1 Peter 5:2-3. / John 10:11-14

**Questions:** What steps can you take to tap into the pastoral gifts God has set in your church? How do you exercise faith to receive?

b) Commitments of a member

i) A member is in agreement with the statement of faith and the purpose of the church. Matt 18:19 / 1 Cor 1:10

**Questions:** Do you know what your church believes? If not, how can you find out? If so, why is it important?

ii) A member attends services and church events regularly. We assemble to be taught and encouraged, and to release our gifts: Heb 10:24-25 / Acts 2:46 / 1 Cor 14:26.

iii) A member prays for the church and its leadership on a regular basis. This is the basis of governing the church 1 Tim 2:1-2 / Col 4:2-4 / Eph 6:18

iv) A member supports the church financially. Tithes and offerings are the plan of God for the support of the ministry. Mal 3:10 / 2 Cor 9:6-11 / 1 Cor 9:7-11 / Rom 15:27

v) A member serves in some capacity in the Body. Each has a valuable role to play. 1 Pet 4:10 / 1 Cor 12: 20-26

vi) A member of consciously and publicly submits himself to the pastoral ministry of the church to watch for his soul. Heb 13:17 / 1 Tim 5:17 / Phil 2:12-16

vii) A member is in covenant relationship with the leadership and the other members. He does all in his ability to avoid strife, discord, murmuring, and evil-speaking. 1 Timothy 5:19-20 / Galatians 5:14-15. 1 Thess 5:12-13

**Question:** Are you a consumer of spiritual goods and services, or are you a vital and engaged covenant partner in a family of faith? What adjustments in attitude and action are you ready to make?