

## What Does Membership Mean?

Romans 12:1-13

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05/03/26

### I. Committed to the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Gathering** – *Hebrews 10:24-25* God has given us a need for community—and He has given us the place where that need for community is met: the \_\_\_\_\_. Tony Merida

**Praying** – “A healthy church member is a \_\_\_\_\_.” – Thabiti Anyabwile

*A pastor who fails to pray for his people is as \_\_\_\_\_ as a pastor who refuses to preach God’s Word.* – Ryan Fullerton

**Serving** – We are not called to be spectators, but servants; not consumers, but \_\_\_\_\_.

**Giving** – *2 Corinthians 9:6-10, Philippians 4:19*

*Matthew 6:21* For where your treasure is, there your \_\_\_\_\_ will be also.

### II. Committed to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Gathering** – The “one-anothers” should \_\_\_\_\_ our gatherings. Small groups, smaller groups, \_\_\_\_\_ discipling. **12-3-1**  
*The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable \_\_\_\_\_ and strength to the believer.* - Bonhoeffer

**Praying** – *Philemon 4, Ephesians 6:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:17*

**Serving** – *1 Peter 4:10-11*

**Giving** – *Philippians 2:3-4*

### III. Committed to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Gathering** – \_\_\_\_\_ *John 15:5*

**Praying** – A healthy \_\_\_\_\_ should be a prayer warrior.

**Serving** – *Colossians 3:23-24* **Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Christ.**

**Giving** – Give your whole life to \_\_\_\_\_. **Romans 12:1**

*Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus*

*Christ...We \_\_\_\_\_ to one another only through and in Jesus Christ.* – Bonhoeffer

## Small Group Discussion

1. How do you think membership and commitment relate to each other in the context of church membership? How is a membership commitment to the church different from other membership commitments you have in life (jobs, social clubs, gyms, etc.)?
2. Read **Hebrews 10:19-25**. What is the need for continuous gathering as a church body?
3. When committing to the church, what ways do you see the need for commitment to gathering, praying, serving, and giving? How does this differ from those same areas in commitment to one another and commitment to Christ?
4. Read **Mark 10:42-45**. How are we called to be contributors to the church by serving one another? What are other passages in Scripture demonstrate to us that Christ’s example was to serve?
5. Read **Romans 12:5, 10; Ephesians 4:2, Ephesians 4:32, 1 Thessalonians 5:15**. In what ways do these verses demonstrate how we should treat other church members (both the universal and the local church)? What other “one anothers” can you think of?
6. How is our commitment to the church and one another part of our commitment to Christ? What does it mean for our vertical relationship with Christ to affect our horizontal relationships with one another?

*“It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian brothers is a gift of grace, a gift of the Kingdom of God that may be taken from us at any time, that the time still separating us from utter loneliness may indeed be brief. Therefore, let him who has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God’s grace from the bottom of his heart. Let him thank God on his knees and declare: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brothers.”*  
– Dietrich Bonhoeffer