



I AM A CHURCH MEMBER
MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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2024 Theme: “Let’s “BE” The Church” (2nd Corinthians 6:16; Matthew 5:14 – 16)

I AM A CHURCH MEMBER

Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference

CHAPTER 1

I Will be a Functioning Church Member

In this book, the author, Thom Rainer, presented statistics based on research of 557 churches from 2004 to 2010, showing that nine out of ten churches in America are declining or growing at a pace that is slower than that of their communities. Another way of looking at this is generationally: two-thirds (66 percent) of the Builder generation (those born before 1946) are Christians, but only 15 percent of the Millennial generation (those born between 1980 and 2000) are Christians. Rainer states that the Millennials are the largest generation with almost 8 million members, and we have all but lost that generation.

We can blame church decline on:

The secular culture.

The godless politics of our nation.

The churches, the hypocritical members, the uncaring leadership, and pastors.

In reality, “church members” need to look in the mirror at our own flaws and frailties.

Rainer proposes that the churches are declining and becoming weaker because many church members have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ.

We join our churches expecting others to serve us, to feed us, and to care for us. We don’t like the hypocrites in the church, but we fail to see our own hypocrisies. Many members have an unbiblical or secular view of membership. They think membership is about receiving instead of giving, being served instead of serving, rights instead of responsibilities, and entitlements instead of sacrifices.

A biblical definition of membership can be found in 1 Corinthians 12:12, 26-27, HCSB, *“¹² For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. ²⁶ So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it.*

Review of Chapter 1 – I Will be a Functioning Church Member

- Church membership means that we are _____ of the whole.
- We are _____ but we still work together, and everything we _____ and _____ is based on a biblical foundation of love (1 Corinthians 13).
- Biblical church membership is _____ membership.
- A biblical church member _____ abundantly without _____ *and* _____ without hesitation. Biblical church members _____ and _____ as a natural way of doing things.
- Each church member has been placed in the church for a specific reason/purpose. Everyone has a function. Everyone should have a _____. Because we are all different with different _____ and _____, we will function differently from other members. But if we are true and biblical church members, we will be functioning members.

List characteristics that church **should** possess in alphabetical order

The church **should** be...

The first one is pastor's answers – you all come up with two more 😊

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| A. Anointed | _____ | _____ |
| B. Blessed | _____ | _____ |
| C. Christ-like | _____ | _____ |
| D. Dedicated | _____ | _____ |
| E. Evangelistic | _____ | _____ |
| F. Faithful | _____ | _____ |
| G. God-fearing | _____ | _____ |
| H. Helpful | _____ | _____ |
| I. Inclusive | _____ | _____ |
| J. Joyful | _____ | _____ |
| K. Kind | _____ | _____ |
| L. Loving | _____ | _____ |
| M. Mindful | _____ | _____ |
| N. Necessary | _____ | _____ |
| O. Optimistic | _____ | _____ |
| P. Present | _____ | _____ |
| Q. Quickened | _____ | _____ |
| R. Righteous | _____ | _____ |
| S. Spiritual | _____ | _____ |
| T. Terrific | _____ | _____ |
| U. Unique | _____ | _____ |
| V. Victorious | _____ | _____ |
| W. Wonderful | _____ | _____ |
| X. Xenacious | _____ | _____ |
| Y. Youthful | _____ | _____ |
| Z. Zealous | _____ | _____ |