



“Church Membership – A Covenant of Fellowship”

Sermon Date: August 1, 2010

Prayer:

Spend some time this week exalting the name of the Lord. Praise Him for who He is and His work of redemption through the cross. Also spend some time praying for the elders at Living Grace. Pray for them to be guided by God’s Word and for wisdom as they will have to “give an account” before the Lord for those who are under their leadership.

Scripture:

Read the following passages and write down what they tell us about church leadership and belonging to a church body.

1 Peter 5:1-2 –

Acts 20:17-18, 28-31 –

Hebrews 13:17 –

Study Questions:

What are some reasons why Church Membership can be beneficial for both the leaders and the members? What are some reasons why churches should implement membership with caution?

Does the idea of being a member of a local church get you excited? Why or why not?

Do you have to be a member of the church in order to be saved from your sin? Does being a member of a church necessarily mean that you are a Christian? Justify your answer with Scripture.

How could a church with members deeply committed to each other change the perception of the church in our local community? If we are serious about living in a loving covenant relationship with the leaders and other members of the church, what message does that send to the outside world (John 13:34-45)?

“Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living in 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 brethren.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer