

The Kingdom-Center Church 3

Church membership is the commitment to be identified and dynamically involved with a local body of believers who are growing together as disciples of Jesus Christ.

- This is a formal and functional relationship with others.
- Just as you have a formal and function relationship with Jesus.
 - o You identify with His Name: Christian
 - o You involve yourself with His Agenda: Advancing the Kingdom

The Kingdom Church

1) Connect

Connect to a Church Family

- a) Everybody spiritually alive person needs a spiritual family
 - i.) Household of God – Ephesians 2:19 “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”
 - ii.) The Bible talks about spiritual fathers existing in the church.
 - iii.) Paul told Timothy to encourage older men as you would a father, treat young men as brothers, older women as mothers, and young women as sisters with all purity. And take care of widows who truly need some help (1 Timothy 5:1-3)
- b) Every spiritually alive person needs to be equipped and it happens best in a local church.

Ephesians 4:11 “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, **14** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. **15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

- c) The connection to the local church is God's prescription for spiritual survival in the midst of oppression and difficult days.

Hebrews 10:22-25 "let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

2) Commit

- a) Formal and Functional Relationship

(1) Just as believers share a formal and relational connection with Christ in conversion in the same way Christians are to have a formal and functional relationship to a local body of believers. Our commitment is not only to Christ, but to other Christians as well.

- b) Make a commitment to be a Member and Serve as a Member

3) Cultivate

- a) Cultivate your personal devotion to being a true disciple of Jesus.

In Matthew 13 "Jesus says a farmer went out to sow seeds. Some fell on (1) Hard path and the birds ate it (2) Rocky ground and it couldn't take root (3) Among the thorns and thistles and the weeds choked it out (4) Good Soil and it produced a harvest of 30, 60, and 100 fold."

- i) In this church there are all kinds of Cultivating tools

(1) The Big 5

(2) The Journey Discipleship Experience

(3) C Groups of all kinds of Variety

- b) Cultivate your gifts

1 Peter 4:10,11 NLT "God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. **11** Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ."

c) Cultivate Life Producing Relationships

This takes cultivating... and it can be hard work. But the payoff is what God wants it to be.