



Adult Church School
Summer Session
Chapter 1: I Will Be A Functioning
Church Member
Lesson Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12-13

Proposition

“We who are **church members** need to look in the mirror. I am suggesting that congregations across America are weak because many of us church members have lost the *biblical* understanding of what it means to be a part of the *body of Christ*.”

Thom S. Rainer



Scripture Background

1 Corinthians 12

Paul explains the metaphor of the church being a **body** with many members.

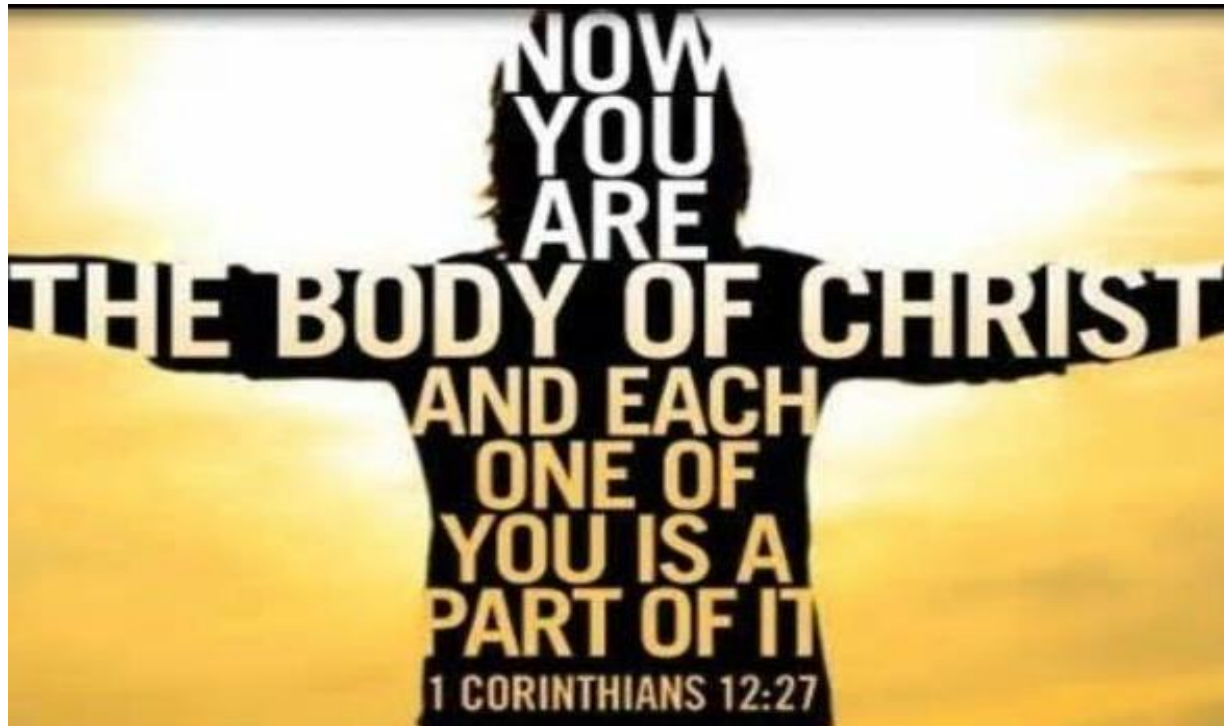
1 Corinthians 13

Paul established **love** as the central attitude and action all *members* should have.

1 Corinthians 14

Paul returns to the *messed-up church* at Corinth that has the concept of membership all wrong.

Biblical Definition of Membership



Definition of Membership

Secular/Country Club

- Membership means perks.
- Membership means privileges.
- Membership means others will serve me.
- Rights instead of responsibility.
- Entitlements instead of sacrifices.

Biblical

- Members of a church comprise the whole and are essential parts of it.

How to Remain A Member

Country Club

- Pay your dues



Biblical Member of a Church

- Give abundantly
- Serve without hesitation



Church Membership

Man Made Membership

- Remain on rolls and never show up or give.
- Be a CEO Christian (Christmas, Easter Only)
- Be a revered member by giving a nice sum each year but never lift a finger in service or ministry.

Biblical Member

- Gives without qualification
- Views the tithes and offerings as joyous giving.
- Serves and ministers as a natural way of doing things.

The Church

- The Church is to be unified in its mission, purpose, ministries and activities.
- Everyone has a **function**.
- Everyone should be **functioning**.
- Everyone should have a **role**.

One of the ongoing questions you should ask yourself and God in prayer is: “**How can I best serve my church?**” You should never ask yourself if you should be serving your church.