



I AM A CHURCH MEMBER

CHAPTER 3


JESUS SAID

“If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all”.

Mark 9:35

“He sat down and summoned the Twelve. So you want first place? Then take the last place. Be servant of all.”

Mark 9:35 (Message)



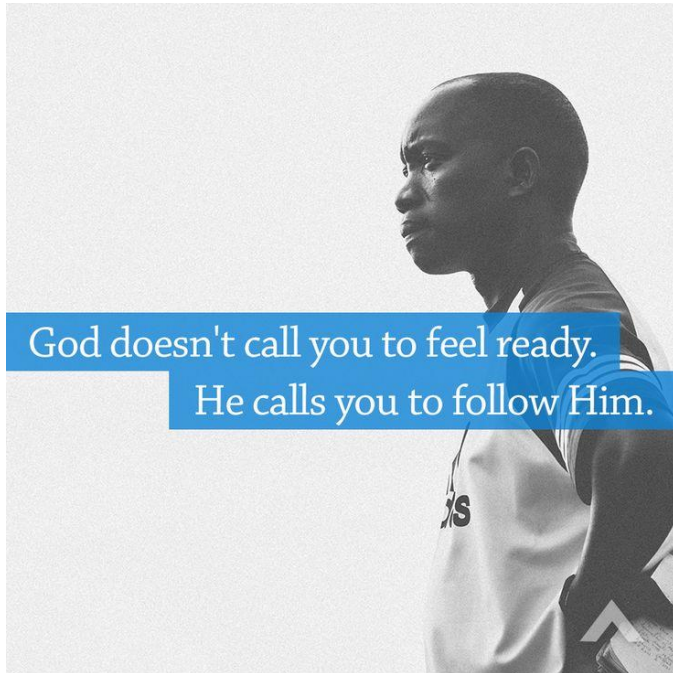
CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR IN THE CHURCH



Christians *can sometimes act just like those demanding children who want things their way.*

Temper tantrums *in churches may not include members lying on the floor kicking and screaming, but some come close.* Pg.

A CHURCH MEMBER



- The strange thing about *church membership* is that you actually **give up preferences** when you join.

Pg. 34

AS A CHURCH MEMBER

- **YOU** are there to meet the needs of others.
 - **YOU** are there to serve others.
 - **YOU** are there to give.
 - **YOU** are there to sacrifice.

As a **church member**, one's motivation should not be to get *one's preferences* to the top of the list. The individual member's needs are to be **last**, not **first**. The **church member** is to be a **servant** instead of one seeking to be served. Pg. 34-35

THE SERVANT MOTIF

Servant occurs 57 times in the New Testament. It refers to the role we are to assume as Christians.

Serving is important in the Bible.

Jesus said we must be last of all and servant of all.

We will never find **joy** in church membership when we are constantly seeking things our way.

We will find the greatest **joy** when *we choose to be last.*

True **joy** means *giving up our rights and preferences* and **servicing** everyone else.




THE INWARDLY FOCUSED CHURCH

The inwardly focused churches were not servicing past their own walls and their own members.

The inwardly focused church is largely self-serving.



THE INWARDLY FOCUSED CHURCH

1. **Worship wars.** One or more factions in the church want the music *just the way they like it*.
 2. **Prolonged minutia meetings.** The church spends an inordinate amount of time in different meetings. Most of the meetings deal with the most inconsequential items, while the Great Commission and Great Commandment are rarely the topics of discussion.
 3. **Facility focus.** The *church facilities* develop **iconic status**. One of the highest priorities in the church is the *protection and preservation* of rooms, furniture and other visible parts of the church's buildings and grounds.
 4. **Program driven.** The problem is not with the **programs**. The problem develops when the *program becomes an end* instead of a means to greater ministry.
 5. **Inwardly focused budget.** A disproportionate share of the **budget** is used to meet the needs and comforts of the *members* instead of reaching beyond the walls of the church.
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THE INWARDLY FOCUSED CHURCH

6. **Inordinate demands for pastoral care.** All church members *deserve care* and concern, especially in times of need and crisis. Problems develop when church members have *unreasonable expectations* for even minor matters.
7. **Attitudes of entitlement.** The overarching attitude is one of demanding and having a sense of deserving special treatment.
8. **Greater concern about change than the gospel.** Almost any *noticeable changes* in the church evoke *the ire* of many; but those same passions are not evident about participating in the *work of the gospel* to change lives.
9. **Anger and hostility.** Members are *consistently angry*. They regularly express hostility toward the church staff and other members.
10. **Evangelist apathy.** Very few members *share their faith* on a regular basis. More are concerned about *their own needs* rather than the greatest eternal needs of the world and community in which they live. Pg. 37-38

TAKE ON THE MIND OF CHRIST

JESUS :

- He did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage.
- He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave.
- He humbled Himself.
- He became “obedient to the point o death – even to death on a cross.”



PHILIPPIANS 2

- **We** are to be *servants*.
- **We** are to be *obedient*.
- **We** are to put *others first*.
- **We** are to do whatever it takes to keep the *unity* in our church.

If we approach church membership from the perspective of entitlement, we have it upside down. “You always ask first what you can do for your church.” pg. 39



