

SERMON OUTLINE

A PORTRAIT OF A HEALTHY CHURCH: ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

ROMANS 12:4-5

APRIL 28TH, 2024

Four Reasons Membership is Foundational to a Healthy Church

I. Church membership is biblical

“Church membership is a formal relationship between a church and a Christian characterized by the church’s affirmation and oversight of a Christian’s discipleship and the Christian’s submission to living out his or her discipleship in the context of the church.” – Jonathan Leeman

II. Church membership identifies who the elders are responsible to shepherd

“The church is not just a loose collection of individuals, it is a closely knit structure like a human body (Ephesians 4:16) and has therefore to be rightly organized. For such ordering, it needs to know exactly who belongs to it. A family which sat down to its meal-table or locked its doors at night, not knowing who was supposed to be there and who not, would be an extremely strange phenomenon. An army battalion which did not know whom to expect on parade would soon be in chaos. If the church is to be a true family and an effective fighting force, it needs to know who exactly belongs to it.” – Eric Lane

III. Church membership makes belonging a reality

IV. Church membership roots out self-centeredness

BENEDICTION: “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, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” – Ephesians 2:19-22