

I Am a Church Member: I Will Treasure Church Membership as a Gift

Till Plains 5/22/2021

Text: Ephesians 2:19-22 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Point 1 – The biblical perspective of the gift of church membership.

Reference verses: Romans 3:23; 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Acts 3:19; Ephesians 2:8-9

1. What does the Bible say about the nature of our salvation and why?

Reference verses: 1 Corinthians 12:27-28

2. Why is church membership a gift to be treasured, anticipated and enjoyed?

Point 2 – Being a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

3. What differences do you see between the worldwide movement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the local congregation?

4. What similarities?

5. In what ways does the following quote help you understand the challenges which still exist in loving the church?

“The church militant is not the church triumphant, and earth is not heaven, The church is composed of erring, imperfect men and women, who are but learners in the school of Christ, to be trained, disciplined, educated, for this life and for the future, immortal life.” – Ellen White, *Signs of the Times*, January 4, 1883.

Point 3 – Understanding the gift.

Reference verses: Matthew 20:26-28

6. What was the most treasured gift you ever received? Why was it so treasured?

7. Why are Jesus’ words in verse above so crucial for truly understanding the gift of church membership?

Conclusion:

8. In what ways will you seek to receive church membership as a gift from God?
