

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SONOMA

Exalting Jesus through the preaching of His Word

Sundays at 10:30 AM · 542 First St E, Sonoma, CA

Why Church Membership?

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12–27

You live out your membership in Christ's body in a local church.

1 The Body Is Made by _____ (vv. 12–13)

- Verse 12 ends not “so also is the church” but “so also is _____.” Christ and His people are one (Acts 9:4).
- By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body (v. 13). Nobody becomes a Christian _____.

2 Every Member _____ (vv. 14–20)

- A foot that quits the body is still part of it (vv. 15–16). Your feelings do not change the _____ about the body.
- “God has _____ the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired” (v. 18).
- **So ask:** “Where has God placed me, and am I living there?”

3 Every Member Is _____ (vv. 21–25)

- “I have no need of you” cannot be said (v. 21). The autonomous Christian is an _____ one.
- The members which _____ to be weaker are necessary (v. 22): the shut-in who prays, the widow who makes the coffee.
- Mutual need, so mutual care (vv. 24–25; Heb 10:24–25). Our world trains us to be consumers. God calls us to be _____.

4 Every Member Shares One _____ (vv. 26–27)

- If one member suffers, all suffer (v. 26). You must be close enough to see the _____ (Rom 12:15).
- “You are Christ’s body” (v. 27) was written to a _____ congregation, with edges and leaders (5:12–13; Heb 13:17).

CONCLUSION — A Body Given for the Body

- “This is My body, which is for you” (11:24). “We who are many are one body” (10:17).
- Christ’s body was broken so that we could be made into **His body**.

THINK AND DO LIKEWISE

- **Not a member anywhere?** Stop living as a detached foot. Join a faithful church.
- **Attending but never joined?** Membership is a gift: a people who pray for you and carry you.
- **Every member:** Be known well enough to weep and rejoice together.
- **Outside of Christ?** Turn from sin and trust Jesus, who gave His body for sinners.