



Is Church Membership Biblical?

RYAN M. MCGRAW, RYAN SPECK

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Many churches have an official process to join their membership. Is this really a biblical practice? The authors show that the Bible assumes the necessity of formal church membership so that we can fulfill the commands and apply the promises given to the church. Clearly and carefully, and answering contemporary objections along the way, the authors make the biblical case that God desires the members of His heavenly kingdom to join with the earthly society that reflects it—Christ’s body, the church.

Contents:

The Foundations of Church Membership: The Church as a Community

The Duty of Church Membership: We Must Join This Community

The Form and Means of Church Membership: Membership Rolls and Membership Vows

Objections to Church Membership

Authors

RYAN M. MCGRAW is pastor of First Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Sunnyvale, California; research associate, University of the Free State; and adjunct professor of systematic theology, Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

RYAN SPECK received his MDiv from Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He is pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Columbia, Missouri. He is blessed to be married to Carolina and to be the father of five daughters.

Endorsement

“As a pastor, I can’t tell you how much I appreciate this small book by McGraw and Speck. It is a perfect primer to give to people who are considering membership in a church as well as those who are already members but need further instruction regarding the nature of church membership.” — Mark Jones, minister of Faith Vancouver Presbyterian Church (PCA), Canada

Cultivating Biblical Godliness Series

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones once said, “The world today is looking for, and desperately needs, true Christians. I am never tired of saying that what the Church needs to do is not to organize evangelistic campaigns and

attract outside people, but to begin herself to live the Christian life. If she did that, men and women would be crowding into our buildings. They would say, ‘What is the secret of this?’”

Many people who are new to the church need instruction in the most basic aspects of godly living. Even where churches are engaged heavily in discipleship, visitors and members often have gaps in their understanding and practice. One of the greatest needs of our time is for the Spirit of God to cultivate biblical godliness in us in order to put the glory of Christ on display through us, all to the glory of God the Father.

For these reasons, Joel Beeke and Ryan McGraw are coediting a series of booklets titled Cultivating Biblical Godliness. These booklets treat matters that are vital to Christian experience, and each contribution aims to address a wide variety of people and circumstances at a fundamental and introductory level. This includes teaching people what to believe in order to practice personal holiness as well as specific directions on how to cultivate biblical godliness in relation to issues that are common to God’s people.

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