

## **Series: Why Bother?**

### **Today: Why Bother With Church Membership?**

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those **who will have to give an account**. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Hebrews 13:17

<sup>9</sup> I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— <sup>10</sup> not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. <sup>11</sup> But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. <sup>12</sup> For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not **those inside the church** whom you are to judge? <sup>13</sup> God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

I Corinthians 5:9-13

<sup>5</sup> Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. <sup>6</sup> For such a one, this punishment **by the majority** is enough, <sup>7</sup> so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. <sup>8</sup> So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.

II Corinthians 2:5-8

What are we looking for in the New Testament? A consistent \_\_\_\_\_ of the local church in action.

[picture]

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of this church are accountable to God—  
but for whom? [elders, pastors]

--for everybody in town?

--for all the believers in town?

--for all the believers who attend this church?

--for all the believers who have joined this church as covenant members.

2. God expects leaders to maintain the discipline of the body—those \_\_\_\_\_  
the body, not outside it. (I Cor. 5:12) [inside]

Make no mistake: \_\_\_\_\_ himself will discipline those *outside* the body. (v. 13)  
[God]

3. Church discipline carried out by *the majority* (II Cor. 2:6) \_\_\_\_\_ a  
fixed number known to church spiritual leaders. [implies]

Many other NT passages could \_\_\_\_\_ to this picture! Clearly, leaders who were  
accountable to God kept lists of those for whom they were responsible. [add]

I Timothy 5:9 Enrolling widows on an official list.

Is this sometimes messy? Absolutely \_\_\_\_\_! [YES]

It is a mess worth making and worthy of our lives.