

# Christ's Church: A Foretaste of Heaven

# Church Membership

Passages like Heb 12:18-24 teach us “about the glory of membership in the church, because it is in the assembly of the church that we experience the clearest foretaste of these heavenly realities. Our membership in the church is meant to be a pointer to our membership in God’s heavenly assembly”

Message

**Church membership is a unique privilege and an awesome responsibility where we serve together as a key instrument of God's plan in history.**

# We exist in the sphere of Christ where great blessings are provided

In Christ  
we  
have...

All spiritual  
blessings  
(1:3)

God's  
bountiful  
grace (1:6)

Redemption  
(1:7)

New life  
(2:6)

The Father's  
kindness  
(1:7)

Confident  
access to our  
Father (3:12)

God “has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (1:3)

He has “lavished upon us” the “riches of His grace” (1:7-8)

We behold “the surpassing greatness of His power” (1:19)

He is “rich in mercy” and loved us with “great love” (2:4)

In kindness He has given us “the surpassing riches of His grace” (2:7)

“the unfathomable riches of Christ” (3:8)

His wisdom is multi-faceted (3:10)

**We possess treasures that call for over-the-top language to describe them**

# We are the beneficiaries of God's life-transforming work

God has adopted us into His family (1:5)

Redeemed us and forgiveness of our sins (1:7)

He has given us new life (2:4-7)

Saved us (2:8-9)

Reconciled us to Himself (2:16-18)

# We experience the full power of the Trinity actively working in us

Father

Richly blessed us  
(1:3)

Chosen us and  
predestined us to  
be adopted into  
His family (1:4-5)

Made us to be His  
heritage (1:11)

# We experience the full power of the Trinity actively working in us

**Son**

Authority over all things and is Head of the church (1:22)

Our forgiveness comes through His blood (1:7)

He has brought us near to God (2:13)

Jesus "Himself is our peace" (2:14)

Put to death the enmity between us and God (2:16)



# We experience the full power of the Trinity actively working in us

Sealed us and is a guarantee of our inheritance (1:13-14)

He provides us access to God (2:18)

Dwells in us (2:22)

**Holy Spirit**

Revealed the mystery about the church (3:5)

**We have the  
high privilege  
to be a unique  
instrument in  
God's plan**

God fills the church with His fulness (1:23)

In the church we are fellow citizens (2:19)

We are fellow members of God's family (2:19)

We are being built into a holy temple for God to dwell in (2:20-22)

We are “fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the [New Covenant] promise” (3:6)

# We've been uniquely tasked with a high calling

*We've been tasked with sharing this incredible gospel, “the unfathomable riches of Christ” (3:8)*

*It is in the church that God has chosen to shine light on His multi-faceted wisdom (3:10)*

*As God works in and through us, we will be “to the praise of the glory of His grace” (1:6, 12, 14)*