

REDEMPTION HILL CHURCH

Why Become a Member?

A Biblical Explanation of Covenant Membership

Why Membership Matters

The New Testament consistently portrays believers as members of identifiable local churches under the care of qualified elders. Elders are commanded to shepherd the flock of God (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4), and believers are instructed to obey their leaders and submit to them because they keep watch over their souls as those who will give an account (Hebrews 13:17). These commands assume a meaningful relationship between shepherds and the flock. If elders are accountable before God for souls, they must know who they are responsible to shepherd. Likewise, believers should know who has been entrusted with their spiritual care. Membership provides that clarity. Church membership is therefore not merely an administrative tool or organizational formality. It is a practical expression of biblical shepherding and biblical accountability.

Protection from False Teaching

One of the primary responsibilities Christ has given to church leaders is the protection of His people from false teaching. Jesus warned that false teachers would arise and seek to deceive God's people (Matthew 7:15). Paul instructed the Ephesian elders to guard the flock from those who would distort the truth and draw away disciples after themselves (Acts 20:28-31). Throughout church history, false teaching has remained one of the greatest threats to the spiritual health of God's people. Error often appears attractive and persuasive while leading people away from Christ. Membership places believers within a church committed to the faithful preaching of God's Word. Through biblical teaching and doctrinal oversight, Christ protects His people from error and establishes them in the truth.

Protection from Spiritual Isolation

God did not create His people to live the Christian life alone. Christians are commanded to encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24-25), bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2), and care for one another as members of the same body (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Spiritual isolation creates vulnerability. When believers become disconnected from the life of the church, they often lose the encouragement, accountability, wisdom, and support God intends them to receive. Membership identifies a believer as part of a specific body where these biblical responsibilities can be meaningfully practiced.

Protection from Wandering

Scripture frequently describes God's people as sheep and Christ as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-16). Like sheep, believers are prone to wander and can be led astray by sin, temptation, false teaching, or the cares of this world. Because of this reality, Christ appoints shepherds to watch over His flock. Elders are commanded to shepherd the church of God (Acts 20:28) and keep watch over souls as those who will give an account (Hebrews 13:17). Membership establishes a clear relationship between shepherds and sheep and helps both know their God-given responsibilities.

Protection Through Accountability

Throughout the New Testament, believers are commanded to participate in one another's spiritual growth. Christians are to exhort one another daily (Hebrews 3:12-13), speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), restore one another when overtaken in sin (Galatians 6:1), and stir one another up to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24-25). These commands assume meaningful relationships within a local church. Accountability is not primarily about correction but about mutual encouragement toward faithfulness. Membership provides a framework where these biblical responsibilities can be faithfully practiced.

Protection Through Church Discipline

Church discipline is one of Christ's ordained means of preserving the holiness of His church and restoring wandering believers. Jesus established the pattern for discipline in Matthew 18:15-20, and the apostles instructed churches to address persistent, unrepentant sin according to Scripture. The goal of discipline is never punishment but repentance, restoration, and reconciliation. Because Christ loves His people, He does not abandon them to destructive patterns of sin. Membership identifies those who have willingly placed themselves under this loving care and accountability.

Protection Through Prayer and Shepherding

Christ has given shepherds to His church for the care of His people (Ephesians 4:11-16). Elders are charged to shepherd the flock of God, keep watch over souls, and devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word. Through faithful prayer, biblical teaching, counsel, encouragement, and correction, elders serve as instruments through which Christ cares for His church. Membership helps clarify who the elders are responsible to shepherd and who has willingly placed themselves under that care.

Protecting the Church Body

Membership is not only about receiving protection from the church. It is also a commitment to help protect the church itself. Believers are called to preserve the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:1-3), encourage one another daily, and pursue what makes for peace and mutual upbuilding (Romans 14:19). Because the church is Christ's body, members should actively seek to protect its unity, purity, and witness. Scripture repeatedly warns against sins that damage the fellowship of God's people. Membership therefore involves a commitment to resist division and promote peace, love, and faithfulness within the church.

Protecting Church Leadership

Scripture teaches that faithful elders are worthy of honor as they labor in preaching, teaching, shepherding, and prayer (1 Timothy 5:17). Believers are instructed to respect those who labor among them and to submit to their leadership as they follow Christ. Membership includes a commitment to pray for church leaders, encourage them, receive biblical instruction with humility, and support them as they faithfully fulfill their responsibilities before Christ. In this way, membership becomes a covenant of mutual protection in which both elders and members seek the glory of Christ and the good of His church.

Covenant of Mutual Care and Protection

Membership at Redemption Hill Church is a covenant of mutual care and protection. By God's grace, I commit to protecting the unity, purity, peace, and witness of this church. I also willingly place myself under the shepherding care and oversight of the elders whom Christ has appointed to watch over His people. Likewise, the elders commit themselves to protecting, teaching, shepherding, encouraging, and praying for the members entrusted to their care. Together we seek to glorify Christ through faithfulness, love, accountability, and service until Christ returns.

New Member Signature

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Overseeing Elder Signature

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____