

The Membership of the Covenant **Romans 12:1-8**

Introduction:

This sermon is not an isolated sermon. It is a series of sermons on God's Covenant. We have already looked at the various kinds of Covenants such as the very first of all Covenants, the Covenant of Redemption which is a covenant between God the Father and God the Son as stated clearly in John 17, 'All those whom the Father has given to the Son before the creation of the universe will be saved'

We study also the Substance of the Covenant which includes the Covenant of Works which God made with Adam, who was sinless who could have fulfilled his covenant obligations but failed. Therefore God acted in grace establishing the Covenant of Grace which included the covenants made with Abraham, Moses, David and finally the New Covenant which Jesus says was established through His blood. Within these various covenants we have studied a unilateral covenant – One sided, Bilateral – God & man and Mutual covenant – man & man.

- I. **What is Church Membership?**
 - A. **God binding His People together – I Pet. 1:1**
 1. The body of Christ – I Cor. 12:27 cf. Eph. 5:23
 2. "bodies" are a living and holy sacrifice" – Rom. 12:1
 3. Distinction between invisible and visible church – Rom. 12:4,5 (Keddie)
 - B. **Greek – "member" is "melos" means -**
 1. literally "parts of the human body"
(Matt. 5:29-30; Rom. 6:13,19; 7:5, 23; 12:4)
 2. Figurative usage – Rom. 12:5; Eph. 4:25
 - C. **Is Church membership found within the Bible? Ans. It certainly is.**
Rev. 21:27; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:20; I Pet. 2:5; Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17; Matt. 18:17
 - D. **Three Marks of the Church:**
 1. Teaching ministry
 2. Sacraments
 3. Discipline – I Cor. 5:7,13
- II. **Is Church Membership required? Yes,**
 - A. **Duties and Responsibilities – I Tim. 3:15; John 17; I Cor. 12:25**
- III. **The Blessings of Church Membership**
 - A. **Blessing comes with commitment and consistency – John 8:31; John 15:5**
 - B. **Three sound reasons of joining:**
 1. The gospel preaching is declared and the Word of God taught.
 2. The signs of the covenant are administered.
 3. The good care of the church by church discipline for the purity of the church
 - C. **God's will for our lives:**
 1. It is God's will to be a members of His church – Mal.3:16; Psa. 122:1-2
 2. It is God's will to be members of His church because we are the "bride" of Christ
Rev. 21:2, 9; 22:17; Eph. 5:25
 3. It is God's will to be members of His church because we are a Covenant family – Heb. 10:25
 4. It is God's will to be members of His church because we must exercise our gifts – Rom. 12:7,8
 5. It is God's will to be members of His church because we are involved in a shared experience Jer. 3:15

