

## Membership

*Individuals who have never experienced the joy and delight of belonging to a loving and vital Christian body have missed one of the thrills of the Christian life. Mere “church-going” was never in God’s plan for you. He wants you very closely knit with a group of dear friend with whom you can share your life. (Terry Virgo)*

### **Why Does Jubilee Have a Membership?**

The Bible uses the metaphor of a body to describe the church: “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ”.<sup>69</sup> It is a beautiful illustration of how we are each created to serve different functions, we need everyone to function in order to be a healthy body, and how we, as separate parts find purpose and unity under Jesus, “the head of the body, the church”.<sup>70</sup> Members are the church.<sup>71</sup>

### **Why Should I Become a Member?**

1. Because Jesus wants you to. Not necessarily at Jubilee Church, but if not Jubilee, somewhere. 1 Peter 2:4 says, “And coming to Him as to a living stone...you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”. This text tells us that as we come closer and closer to Jesus (The Living Stone), He builds us (also living stone) closer and closer to others to be a spiritual house (not made of bricks but people). God’s plan for you is not to live in isolation or independence, but rather to be built into a community where there is interdependence.
2. Because you will grow spiritually. You don’t become a member of a church for the perks and to have more stuff to consume, but the real benefit of church membership is giving yourself and participating in something bigger than yourself. It’s about presenting your bodies as living sacrifices as worship unto Jesus and this needs to happen in local community. When you give yourself to Jesus and a local church this way, amazing things can happen. We are just like a young tree. If we uproot ourselves every couple of months to a new spot, we won’t have a chance to grow. However, if we stay in one spot with good soil, plenty of water and sunshine, we’ll thrive.

**If I'm not a member can I still get involved?**

Absolutely! In fact, we would encourage you to do so. Membership is not required to participate with us in Community Groups, Sunday services, prayer meetings, serving, etc. We do, however, require membership for leadership and teaching roles. Membership is a commitment and we are aware that might take some time to make that decision.

**Can I attend the Membership Course even if I do not plan to be a member?**

Yes. While most people do go on to become members, there are some who just want to know more about Jubilee and do not immediately become members.

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69 1 Cor 12:12

70 Col 1:18

71 Eph 2:19-22

