

The Gift of Membership

Discussion Questions

1. In Matthew 20:26–28, Jesus teaches that greatness in His kingdom comes through serving.
How does this teaching challenge the common “consumer mindset” people sometimes bring to church?
2. Thom Rainer contrasts “country club membership” with biblical church membership.
What are some practical signs that someone is approaching church like a consumer rather than a servant?
3. Jesus criticized the Pharisees as “whitewashed tombs.”
How can a person appear spiritually healthy on the outside while being spiritually unhealthy on the inside?
4. Attitude matters in church participation.
Why do you think our heart attitude toward serving is just as important as the act of service itself?
5. The phrase “You get out what you put in” was used to describe church involvement.
How have you personally seen deeper involvement lead to deeper connection or spiritual growth?
6. The New Testament shows both a universal church and local churches.
Why is belonging to a specific local church body important for living out the Christian life?
7. Passages like Hebrews 13:17 and 1 Corinthians 5 assume identifiable membership in a local church.
How do these passages help us understand the importance of accountability and leadership in the church?
8. Church membership was described as “mutual belonging.”
What responsibilities do church members have toward one another in that kind of relationship?
9. When we see church membership as a gift rather than an obligation, our perspective changes.
What are some ways gratitude for salvation should naturally lead to serving others in the church?
10. Reflect on your own involvement in the church.
What is one practical step you could take to live more fully as a servant-minded church member?