



Study #4

Guarding the Church's Front Door and Opening the Back Door

Ice Breaker:

1. Describe a time when you were a part of a team and were able to accomplish something that you couldn't have done on your own?

Watch Video @ <http://vimeo.com/33930025>

Watch the video till the 1:10 mark, filling in the blanks, and then answer the following questions:

2. Do you think church membership is optional when it comes to your relationship and involvement with the church? What reasons do you have for this?
3. What attitudes and actions can arise when we treat church as a club or organization in which we are free to come and go as we please?

Watch the video till the 6:50 mark, filling in the blanks, and then answer the following questions:

- When you join a local church, you are committing yourself to something _____ that God is doing.
- Selfish, _____, fallen---no commitment/Christian---_____
- Church leaders should expect church members to:
 - _____ for them
 - Submit to their leadership
 - _____
- 4. According to the video and your understanding of the Scriptures, what are some reasons that church membership is vitally important to any healthy church?
- 5. How might you respond to someone who says that "Membership is just a formality. You don't see it in the Bible. What counts is whether I am involved in the people's lives by loving them and serving them?"

Watch the video till the 13:28 mark, filling in the blanks, and then answer the following questions:

- When we're in a church together, we have special _____ for each other.
- Part of the responsibility of church membership is to make sure we're not _____ ourselves.

- Jesus told us in to join a local church because:
 - It's good for you _____ as a Christian.
 - It's good for other Christians
 - It's good for _____
 - It's good for the leaders of the church
 - It's for the _____ of God

6. Look to the above reasons given as to why Jesus told us to join a local church, how have you seen one of these lived out?

Watch the video till the 19:17 mark, filling in the blanks,
and then answer the following questions:

- Church discipline is both _____ and corrective.
- _____ is when the local church withdraws its endorsement of a person's confession of faith.
- Christians are often scared of church discipline because they think it will _____ the church.

7. List some reasons that churches fail to practice church discipline.

8. What do you think are some of the effects on both the church and the congregation when church discipline is over looked?

Watch the video till the 28:20 mark, filling in the blanks,
and then answer the following questions:

- Church discipline reflects God's _____, not His wrath.
- To resist church discipline is to be _____.
- Church discipline reflects the _____ of God.
- The whole reason to have church membership is to _____ each other follow Jesus.

"Church discipline is not a group of 'pious policemen' out to catch a criminal. Rather, it is a group of brokenhearted brothers and sisters seeking to restore and erring member of the family."

Warren Wiersbe

9. How does church discipline reflect the holiness and mercy of God?

10. Read the above quote. How does a church make sure that they are the latter, not the former, when it comes to church discipline?