



6 Notable Quotes on Formal Church Membership

1) If the church is a building, then we must be bricks in it; if the church is a body, then we are its members; if the church is a household of faith, then we are part of that household. Sheep are in a flock, and branches on a vine. Biblically, if we are Christians we must be members of a church. This membership is not simply the record of a statement we once made or of affection toward a familiar place. It must be the reflection of a living commitment or it is worthless. **Mark Dever**

2) I heard of a man who said to the preacher, "I want to sing in your choir." The preacher replied, "But you don't belong here. Where do you have your membership?" He said, "I don't belong to any local church. I belong to the invisible church." The pastor said, "Then I suggest that you join the invisible choir." **Vance Havner**

3) It's clear that in the days of the apostles, it was the universal practice to receive believers into the visible church. It's possible that a true believer, because of some unusual circumstances, may fail to unite with the church. One may, for instance, believe in Christ and die before receiving baptism, or joining a local church. But such instances are exceptional. The Scriptural rule is that while membership is not a prerequisite for salvation, it is a necessary consequence of salvation. **R.B. Kuiper**

4) Church membership is a formal relationship between a local church and a Christian characterized by the church's affirmation and oversight of a Christian's discipleship and the Christian's submission to living out his or her discipleship in the care of the church. **Jonathan Leeman**

5) When you join a church you make it clear whose side you're on. You're telling the family of God that you're part of the family too, and that you don't want to be considered on the "outside" (1 Corinthians 5:12-13) any longer. **Donald Whitney**

6) Scripture speaks very clearly to the fact that identification with God's people in a formal, public way was considered essential in...New Testament times... A careful study of the New Testament doesn't reveal even a hint of any believer who was truly saved, but not part of a local church. **Wayne Mack**