

“Membershift”

- Introduction:
1. Our plea is to be Christians, and Christians only; to go back to the Bible and simply be and practice what the Bible teaches.
 2. Could it be that we still need to restore some matters concerning 1st century Christianity?
 - a. Not in form, but in function?
 3. This series of lessons will challenge us to make what may be some necessary shifts in our way of looking at certain Bible topics.

I. Does Our View Of Church Membership Need A Shift?

- A. According to research, 9 out of 10 churches had declining membership between 2004 and 2010.
- B. 66% of the people born before 1946 are church goers.
- C. Only 15% of those born since 1980 are church goers.
- D. Who do we blame for such a drastic shift?
- E. Why has church “membership” taken such a hit?
- F. Could it be that we need a shift in our thinking about “church membership?”

II. Membershifts That May Be Needed.

- A. A shift in our view of what it means to be a member of the church.
 1. It is not having your name on a roster, but rather a function to perform.
 2. (Romans 12:4-5).
 3. (1 Corinthians 12:12-26).
 4. Are you a member of the church? If so, what is your function?
- B. A shift in our expectations.
 1. Where did we get the notion that “membership has its privileges?”
 - a. That’s a great slogan for American Express, but not the church.
 - b. Membership in the church isn’t about perks, but about service.
 2. Church membership places you in a relationship wherein you get to live out the characteristics of Jesus (e.g. serving, caring, teaching, and sacrificing).
 3. (John 13:35).
 4. (Ephesians 4:3).
 5. (1 Corinthians 12:22-23).

- Conclusion:
1. We may need to make several shifts in our thinking about church membership.
 - a. Start functioning.
 - b. Seek unity & cease undermining talk.
 - c. Practice forgiveness.
 - d. Don’t always demand your way.
 - e. Fall deeply in love with the church.
 2. If we do these things, we’ll be making a shift in the right direction.