

New Testament Requirements for Membership—A Mark That Matters

Requirements for membership in the true New Testament church matter. In our present world, churches have many different ways by which folks become members. Some require joining; others vote folks in; still others require baptism of infants. The list is endless. Doesn't it make sense that the same New Testament that said: "And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:47)," also told people how to become members.

The New Testament is exact and consistent in what it tells people to do. The Lord commanded the apostles to go preach to the whole creation: "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved (Mt. 16:16)." In Acts 2:37, the people asked an unambiguous question: "What shall we do?" To this question, Peter gave a clear answer in Acts 2:38: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins." In Acts 8:37-39, the eunuch asked: "Why shouldn't I be baptized? . . . Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him." In Acts 11:14, Cornelius is told of Peter: "Who shall speak unto you words whereby you shall be saved." We are told in Acts 10:48: "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ." Saul, later called Paul, said: "What shall I do, Lord?" The Lord answered: "Go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do (Acts 22:10)." In Damascus, Ananias gave Paul an unambiguous command: "Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name (Acts 22:16)."

The same actions that saved these New Testament Christians made them members of the church of Christ (Acts 2:47). Paul wrote: "For in one Spirit were we baptized into one body (I Cor. 12:13)." Paul tells us that the church is that body (Eph. 1:22-23). This same church is the home of the saved: "The church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood (Acts 20:28)." Paul added: "Christ also is head of the church, being himself saviour of the body . . . that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of the water with the word (Eph. 5:23-26)."

In conclusion, there are five requirements for membership which you must meet just as those people of the New Testament met them.

- *Hear the word of God:* Mt. 17:5; Rom. 10:17; Jno. 6:44.
- *Believe in God, the Son, and God's word:* Heb. 11:6; Jno. 3:16; Eph. 1:13.
- *Repent of your sins:* Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19 & 17:30; II Cor. 7:10; II Pet. 3:9.
- *Confess your faith before men:* Rom. 10:10; I Tim. 6:13-16; Jno. 12:42.
- *Be baptized:* Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-6; I Pet. 3:21.

The New Testament requirements for membership constitute a *mark that matters*. The same actions—hearing, believing, confessing, repenting, and being baptized—will save you and add you to the church of the Lord. **Won't you act now!**

New Testament Requirements for Membership

Acts 2:47: “ The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

The Saved Are

- Mk. 16:16: Belief + Baptism
- Acts 2:38: Repentance + Baptism
- Acts 8:37: Belief + Baptism
- Acts 10:48: Hearing + Baptism
- Acts 22:16: Baptism

Results

- Saved
- Remission of Sins
- Rejoicing
- Saved
- Wash Away Your Sins

In the Church

- I Cor.12:13: Baptized into One Body
- Eph. 1:22-23: The Body Is the Church
- Acts 20:28: Lord Purchased the Church
- Eph. 5:23-26: Christ is Head of Church
Savior of the Body
He Sanctified the Church
He Cleansed the Church
He Washed the Church with
the Water and the Word

- BE BAPTIZED: Mk. 16:16, Acts 2:38, Rom. 6:3-6, I Pet. 3:21
- CONFESS: Rom. 10:10, I Tim. 6:13-16, John 12:42
- REPENT: Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19 & 17:30, II Cor. 7:10, II Pet. 3:9
- BELIEVE: Heb. 11:6, John 3:16, Eph. 1:13
- HEAR: Mt. 17:5, Rom. 10:17, Jno. 6:44

New Testament Requirements for Membership

Questions and Answers

1. List some of the many ways that people say that you can get into their church. _____
2. According to Acts 2:47, how does one get into the church? _____
3. When Jesus gave the Great Commission in Mk. 16:16, what did he say that people must do to be saved? _____
4. What question did people ask in at Acts 2:37? _____ What did Peter answer them in Acts 2:38? _____
5. What question did the Ethiopian eunuch ask in Acts 8:37? _____
6. What did Philip and the eunuch do in response to the question? _____
7. What kind of words did Peter speak to Cornelius in Acts 11:14? _____
8. What did Peter command Cornelius and his house to do in Acts 10:48? _____
9. What question did Paul ask in Acts 22:10? _____ Who answered him? _____ What was the answer? _____
10. What was the unambiguous command given to Paul by Ananias in Acts 22:16? _____
11. What happen to Paul's sins? _____
12. What two things happen when people obey these commands (Hint: Acts 2:47)? _____
13. What else is the body of Christ called in Eph 1:22-23? _____
14. How do we get into the body, according to I Cor. 12:13? _____
15. Who is head of the church according to Eph. 5:23-26? _____
16. Who is the savior of the body? _____
17. What do Mt. 17:5, Rom. 10:17, and Jno. 6:44 teach? _____
18. What do Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19 & 17:30, II Cor.7:10, and II Pet. 3:9 require of us? _____
19. What do Rom. 10:10, I Tim. 6:13-16, and Jno. 12:42 teach about confession? _____
20. What is the result of baptism in Mk. 16:16, Acts 2:38, Rom. 6:3-6, and I Pet. 3:21? _____
21. What five actions save you and put you in the Lord's church at the same time? _____