

THE FELLOWSHIP:

LOCAL CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP

WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF THE CHURCH?

“And they devoted themselves to *the apostle’s teaching* and *the fellowship*, to *the breaking of bread* and *the prayers*.”

- Acts 2:42

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- *The Fellowship:*
 - Local Church Membership. Accountability. Serving.

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- A Part of the Christian Life.

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 - The *local church* is where Christ's authority is manifest.

THE CHURCH AUTHORITY

“[Christ] is the head of the body, the church.”

- Colossians 1:18

THE CHURCH BODY

“We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

- Romans 12:5

SO HOW IS THIS
AUTHORITY AND BODY
MAINTAINED?

THROUGH "IDENTITY"

- Think of **The Human Body**. (1 Corinthians 12)
- Think of **Citizenship**. (Philippians 3-4)
- Think **Adoption**. (Galatians 4-6)
- Think of **The Household**. (Ephesians 2-6)
- Think of **The Family**. (1 John 2)

LOCAL BODY IDENTITY

- “The church in Jerusalem” (Acts 8:1)
- “They met with the church” in Antioch (Acts 11:26)
- “The elders of the church” in Ephesus (Acts 20:17)
- “To the church of God that is in Corinth” (1 Cor 1:2)
- “To the churches of Galatia” (Gal 1:2)
- “To the church of the Thessalonians” (1 Thess 1:1)

IDENTITY AND BOUNDARY

- Early Church Pattern: *Repent-Baptized-Added* (Acts 2:37-41)
- Early Church Assembly: “*When you come together*” (1 Cor 11:17-18, 33)
- In vs. Out. “Included vs. Removed.” (1 Corinthians 5:2)
- “Enrolled.” (1 Timothy 5:9)
 - OT Census, Camp & Companies: Numbers 1-2

LOCAL CHURCH = THE FLOCK

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all *the flock*,
in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers to care
for the church of God.”

- Acts 20:28

LOCAL CHURCH = THE FLOCK

“Shepherd the flock of God that is among you.”

- 1 Peter 5:2

LOCAL CHURCH = THE FLOCK

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, *as those who will have to give an account.*”

- Hebrews 13:17

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 - “*My membership is vertical*”
 - “*Are you keeping attendance?*”
 - “*I prefer...*”
- Commitment *is* Devotion. “They devoted themselves to... the fellowship.” (Acts 2:42)

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- Membership is necessary for every local church...
 - *...but it does not look exactly the same in every local church.*

WBC MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

COMMITTING AS A MEMBER MEANS I AM COMMITTED TO...

Jesus Christ. This means I have repented of my sins, and placed my faith and trust in Jesus Christ as both Saviour and Lord.

The Word of God. This means I have submitted to God's Word as my standard for all life and practice (2 Timothy 3:16-17). This naturally means I have taken the first step of obedience as a Christian in baptism, and commit to the regular participation of the Lord's Table when we gather together.

The Body of Christ. This means that *I am committed to the other members of Westmount Bible Chapel* (Romans 12:3-5). This commitment is demonstrated through *faithful attendance* (Hebrews 10:25), *godly living* (Romans 12:9-21), and *cheerful giving* (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15). As well, this commitment to each other involves service to each other. I recognize that service is the natural by-product of being a *saved, changed, and committed* member of the Body of Christ. This means I have talents, abilities, and giftedness given by the Holy Spirit, for the common good of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-27; 1 Peter 4:10). I will exercise my talents, abilities, and giftedness at Westmount Bible Chapel with humility and passion (Philippians 2:3-4).

The Great Commission. This means that I understand that the primary purpose of the local church, after gathering weekly to worship God and grow in Christ, is to fulfill Christ's command in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), by proclaiming the Gospel through my word and my witness.

Unity. This means I have read, understood, and agreed to Westmount Bible Chapel's *commitments, faith, and positions*. As such, I will protect the unity of my church family by

QUESTIONS?