



Intro: The Church of Jesus Christ is first of all a living spiritual organism, then in a limited sense an organization. If either area is neglected, the Church will be weak. In order to have a healthy spiritual organism there must be structure and government. Nowhere in the Word of

God is an unorganized Local Church seen or taught. God is a God of order, design and structure. Some Churches have developed their structure into an administrative machine, well oiled but spiritually powerless. We must develop a spiritual living organism with the proper Biblical structure in order to have a well balanced and powerful Local Church.

*Psa 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain*

*Psa 11:3 NKJV If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?*

### How Our Church Is Structured

The structure of the church should *not* be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the church determines its structure. In other words the \_\_\_\_\_ for which something is built will determine what it will be made of.

### I. The Church Is A \_\_\_\_\_

*"They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship..."* Acts 2:42 (Ph)

A top priority in a fellowship is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Eph. 4:3; Rom. 14:19

**ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.**

A good structure promotes \_\_\_\_\_ and downplays \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Cor. 11:17-18

### II. The Church Is A \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Peter 3:8, Gal. 6:10,

Heb. 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

So we operate on the basis of \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Tim. 5:1-2; 1 Tim. 3:4-5

### III. The Church Is A \_\_\_\_\_

1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 5:23, Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18, 2:19

**We are a body — not a business!  
We are an organism — not an organization!**

Therefore, we function on the basis of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ Rom. 12:4-6

In an organization, "maintenance" becomes the focus. But in an organism, "ministry" is the focus.

At THE VIEW we have a simple structure so we can maximize \_\_\_\_\_ and minimize \_\_\_\_\_

*"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..."* Eph. 4:11-12

### Our Structure

- The people are the "\_\_\_\_\_".
- The pastors/elders are the "\_\_\_\_\_".

### IV. The Church Is A \_\_\_\_\_ John 10:1-30, Matt. 26:31,

Matt. 25:33

Therefore, it is cared for and led by \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Jesus asked Simon Peter, 'Do you really love me?' 'Yes Lord,' said Peter. 'Then take care of my sheep.'"* John 21:16-17

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the *same* church leaders:

"Poimen" in Greek means pastor or shepherd.

"Presbuteros" means "elder" in Greek.

"Episcopos" is the word for "overseer" or "bishop"

## What It Means to be a Member

The difference between “*attenders*” and “*members*” can be summed up in one word \_\_\_\_\_

At The View we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

I. A Biblical Reason: \_\_\_\_\_.

“...*Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it.*” Eph. 5:25

II. A Cultural Reason: \_\_\_\_\_.

III. A Practical Reason: \_\_\_\_\_.

IV. A Personal Reason: \_\_\_\_\_.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you’re not committed to any specific church family.

### WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

At The View we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in a Membership Covenant.

The counsel of the Lord stands forever,  
The plans of His heart to all generations. **Psa 33:11**



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## THE VIEW FAMILY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

“Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with The View’s statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the The View church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

### 1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

Rom. 15:19 ; Rom 15:5; 1 Peter 1:22; Eph. 4:29; Heb. 13:17

...By acting in love toward other members

...By refusing to gossip

...By following and serving with the leadership of this house

“*So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.*” Rom. 15:19 (Ph)

“*Live in complete harmony with each other — each with the attitude of Christ toward each other.*” Rom 15:5 (LB)

“*Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts.*” 1 Peter 1:22 (GN)

“*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...*” Eph. 4:29

“*Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.*” Heb. 13:17

### 2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

...By praying for its growth

...By inviting the unchurched to attend

...By warmly welcoming those who visit

“*To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.*” 1 Thess. 1:2

“*Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full.*” Luke 14:23

*“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” Rom. 15:7 (LB)*

### **III. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH**

- ...By discovering my gifts and talents
- ...By being equipped to serve by my pastors
- ...By developing a servant's heart

*“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you...” 1 Peter 4:10 (Ph)*

*“God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” Eph. 4:11-12*

*“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant...” Phil 2:3-4, 7*

### **IV. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH**

- ...By attending faithfully
- ...By living a godly life
- ...By giving regularly

*“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another.” Heb. 10:25*

*“But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Phil. 1:27 (Ph)*

*“Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering.” 1 Cor. 16:2*

*“A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy.” Lev. 27:30*



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