



## I AM A CHURCH MEMBER

### “A Committed Church Member ”

*Philippians 2:1-11*

February 23, 2014

#### The Potential Problems

- ✓ The Difficulty of Preferences
- ✓ The Danger of Inward Focus
- ✓ The Difference In Perspective

#### The Proper Perspective

- ✓ The Gift of Salvation
- ✓ The Gift of Church Membership
- ✓ The Gift of Serving
- ✓ The Goal of Our Attitude – The Mind of Christ

#### The 5<sup>th</sup> Pledge

*I Am a Church Member. I will not let my church be about my preferences and desires. That is self-serving. I am a member in this church to serve others and to serve Christ. My Savior went to a cross for me. I can deal with any inconveniences and matters that aren't my preference or style.*

#### The 6<sup>th</sup> Pledge

*I Am a Church Member. This membership is a gift. When I received the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, I*

*became a part of the body of Christ. I soon thereafter identified with a local body and was baptized. And now I am humbled and honored to serve and to love others in our church. I pray that I will never take my membership for granted, but see it as a gift and an opportunity to serve others and to be a part of something much greater than any one person or member.*

#### Our Response:

1. Do you understand how much God values your life and desires to have that personal relationship with you? You can ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and life and save you right now. Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God's Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord (the Boss).
2. Maybe you have made that decision, but never have made it public. He is calling you to step out and take that next step that He asks us to do. Be baptized.
3. In order for you to grow and be all that the Lord is calling you to be, you need to be plugged in to a church. If you do not have a church home, and God has called you to be a part of **Petal FBC**, then step across the line today and join! We need you and you need us
4. Will you make a fresh commitment to lay down your preferences and ask the Lord to give you His perspective on being the kind of a Church He has called us to be – Ask Him to give you the Mind of Christ!
5. Do you see being a Believer as a True Gift? Why? Take time to write down your story and when you received the gift of salvation... Do you see begin a Church Member as a gift? Describe your first church experience...
6. Are you serving somewhere and the place He wants you to? Take time before you leave to explore the ways He might want to use you in serving others both inside and in particular outside of our Church.

# I AM A CHURCH MEMBER

“A Committed Church Member”

*Philippians 2:1-11 & Matthew 20:20-28*

February 23, 2014 AM Service

We come to what has been a powerful and I pray yet again life-changing and church changing kind of message series – that we put into practice what we have learned over this past month as we move forward.

We have talked about being a Functioning Church Member, a Unifying Church Member and last week we committed to being a Healthy Church Member. Today we conclude with being a committed Church Member. This wraps up all that we have been talking and sharing about and really draws us down to a great conclusion – that we being deeply committed to Christ and the Church! We must Functioning in the Church as Christ described, we must working constantly on the unity of our church and we must be certain that we are becoming more healthy as a believer and leading our families to do the same. The question is will be truly committed to the Church warts and all and stay the course? I pray that we will and let’s look at the 3 problems to commitment and then having the right perspective on our commitment and what that looks like.

## The Potential Problems

### ✓ **The Difficulty of Preferences**

✓ Many times a lot of the problems arise in Churches not over Biblical or Theological Issues and those must not be issues that divide us. We all have preferences – I certainly do – there are things I like more than others Example – Ketchup – Heinz Only

Worship – Grew up in a traditional – describe – but I have come to learn to appreciate it all

There’s nothing wrong with preferring certain things or doing things a certain way – but to demand that everyone else do it that way or if they don’t they we will take our toys and go the house just won’t cut it.

### ✓ **The Danger of Inward Focus**

Survey was done that had become inwardly focused – too much so and as a result had quit growing and reaching their communities.

They identified 10 things as the cause. The common denominator of all of these is the words, I, me, and mine

✓ **The Difference In Perspective**

**The Proper Perspective**

- ✓ **The Gift of Salvation** We start right here understanding the incredible and indescribable gift of salvation that we did nothing to earn!!

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

2 Corinthians 5:21

Acts 3:19

Ephesians 2:8-9

- ✓ **The Gift of Church Membership** [I Corinthians 12:27-28](#)

A gift to be treasured

A gift to be anticipated

A gift to be enjoyed

Receive the gift with true appreciation - Do you?

A picture of ingratitude - [Matthew 20:20-28](#)

- ✓ **The Gift of Serving**

The word "servant" occurs fifty-seven times in the New Testament (serve fifty-eight times)

Jesus said we must be a servant to all- [Mark 9:35](#)

Paul said we must be servants as well- [Ephesians 3:7](#)

Do you find great joy in serving?

Things I hear – I've done my time (as if it were a prison sentence) I am too young, not talented enough, don't have enough skills, someone else will do it, it's not my responsibility, I don't want to!

Would the Church Family miss you if you weren't here for a month?

Would you miss your Church? **ILLUS: Missing 3 Sundays in a row several years ago – I thought I would die!**

- ✓ **The Goal of Our Attitude – The Mind of Christ** [Philippians 2:5-11](#)

He "did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage."

"He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave."

"He Humbled Himself."

He became "obedient to the point of death-even to death on a cross."

**I Am a Member Banner** - Ask you to sign it if you are willing to commit to these 6 commitments – go back over the 1<sup>st</sup> 4

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**When we dismiss at the end of our service, I am asking you to not run out the door but take time to investigate, talk, share, and sign up for various ways you can become more involved and find your place of service here at our Church or even more outside the walls of our Church.**

### **Highlight The Ministries of our Church**

- ✓ Least of These – Coyote Trail
- ✓ Mission Trips – Interest in Indonesia (Cleveland, Ohio)
- ✓ Petal Primary School – Big Brother/Sister - Volunteer – Workday, Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>

## THE PETAL FBC MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

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

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

- ...By acting in love toward other members**
- ...By refusing to gossip**
- ...By following the leaders**

### **II. 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**

### **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**

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

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