

The first thing to understand about membership in our church is that is does not make you a member of the body of Christ. In fact, without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ church membership is meaningless. Therefore before you decide to become a member of Living Vine you must make sure that you know Jesus Christ who “is head over all things to the church.” (Ephesians 1:22). Your greatest need in life is not to be a church member but to be made right with God by Jesus Christ who died for the church, who created the church, who loves the church and who is soon returning for His church.

How do you gain a personal relationship with Christ?

- Believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross for your sins, was buried, rose from the grave after three days and is alive today.
- Admit to God that you have sinned, ask His forgiveness and repent of your sins. Repent simply means that you quit doing what you know is wrong and begin doing what you know is right with God’s help.
- Accept God’s gift of salvation and forgiveness knowing that it’s a free gift given to you by His grace and that you could never it earn by doing good works.
- Confess Jesus Christ as Lord of your life recognizing that your life is no longer yours to live as you please. From now on Jesus Christ is your Master and you are his servant.

What should you do after confessing Christ as Lord?

- The Bible teaches that after you believe in and confess Christ you should be baptized by immersion. Baptism is a public testimony of the fact that you have died to your old way of life and have now decided to follow Jesus Christ. It symbolizes you death, burial and resurrection with Christ.
- If you have trusted Christ as Lord but have not been biblically baptized (*after believing and confessing Christ and by immersion*) we would consider it a wonderful blessing to baptize you here at Living Vine.
- Since baptism is to occur after believing and confessing Christ we do not baptize infants.

What should you do after confessing Christ and baptism? The

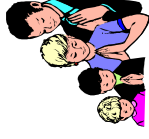
Bible teaches that you should join with a local assembly of believers.

Why is joining a local assembly so important?

- By doing so you demonstrate that you are not ashamed of identifying with Christ or His people.
- You stop being an independent Christian.
- You participate in a stronger, more unified effort of God’s people.
- You have greater opportunity to use the spiritual gifts that God gives to every believer.
- You openly demonstrate the reality of Christ’s body.
- Your presence helps the body to have a more healthy and balanced ministry.

How can you join this local assembly Living Vine Community Church?

- First, pray and seek God’s direction. He will guide you in your search for a place to worship and serve Him.
- Second, attend our new member’s class. We offer new member’s classes on a regular basis. Ask Pastor Rick for more information about the next class. This class is required for membership at Living Vine.
- Finally, commit to abide by Living Vine’s Membership Covenant.



The Living Vine Membership Covenant

“Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Living Vine’s statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Living Vine 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

“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



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
- "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 (LB)

"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 a tithe (10%) of my total income
- "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



Want to know more about becoming a member of Living Vine Community Church?