

## **WHAT DOES A COMMITTED CHURCH MEMBER LOOK LIKE?**

“What does a committed church member look like?”. Below are ways committed membership expresses itself.

### **ATTENDS REGULARLY**

This is the first and most important ministry of every Christian in the local church. Being present, being known, and being active are the only ways to make Christian love possible (Heb. 10:24-25).

### **SEEKS PEACE**

A committed church member is committed to the maintenance of peace in the congregation. “Let us pursue what makes for peace and mutual upbuilding” (Rom. 14:19). “And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (James 3:18).

### **EDIFIES OTHERS**

The one consistent purpose or goal of the public meeting of the church is mutual edification, building each other up in the faith (1 Cor. 12, 14; Eph. 4:11-16). A healthy and committed member comes to serve, not to be served, like Jesus (Mark 10:45); to provide, not to be a consumer only.

### **WARNS AND ADMONISHES OTHERS**

A committed member is committed to speaking the truth in love to his brothers and sisters, to helping them avoid pitfalls, and to encouraging them in holiness and Christian joy. A committed member will not be wrongly intrusive in the lives of others - a busybody - but he also will not be “hands off” when it comes to caring for and counselling others.

### **PURSUES RECONCILIATION**

Christians are people who are reconciled to God through Christ. As a consequence, we have been given “the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor. 5:18-21). So, a committed member strives to repair breaches as quickly as possible, even before continuing in public worship (Matt. 5:23-24).

### **BEARS WITH OTHERS**

Ministers of reconciliation must be patient and longsuffering. They must be characterised by meekness such that they do not think more highly of themselves than they ought (Matt. 5:5). They must hold up under the weight of disappointments, frustrations, loss, attack, slander, and offense (Matt. 18:21-22; Rom. 15:1). By carrying each others’ burdens we fulfill the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2).

### **PREPARES FOR THE ORDINANCES**

One privilege of church membership is participating in Christ’s ordinances - baptism and communion. Moreover, these privileges give us visible proclamations of the good news that Christ died for sinners and rose again to eternal life. So it’s a great tragedy that many Christians neglect the ordinances that Jesus himself established 2,000 years ago. A committed member

rejoices at the baptism of new believers, and he examines his heart in preparation for joining the family of God at the Lord's Table. He receives these spiritual exercises as means of grace, means that give visible testimony to the effect of the gospel in his life and the life of the gathered church. *NOTE: At CBC we currently practice an "open communion", allowing visiting believers to partake.*

### **SUPPORTS THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY**

A committed member gives resources, time, and talent to the furtherance of the gospel in the local church. He lives out the Bible's call to the body of Christ. "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully" (Rom. 12:6-8). A healthy, committed church member receives and applies the grace of God by working to support the ministry of the local church and excels in giving what he has already received from God to gospel work. He should follow the example of the Macedonians, who committed to a financial giving strategy that was sacrificial, generous, increasing over time, and fueled by faith in God despite present circumstances (2 Cor. 8-9). What do we have that we did not first receive from God? What do we have that we should not be willing to give back to him in worship?

*~ Taken from the book "What is a Healthy Church Member?" by Thabiti M. Anyabwil ~*