

## Why Membership?

The question on many people's minds to begin with is – “Why become a member? I mean, why can't we just keep on attending like we have been?” The quick answer is: you can, that is a viable option. At Crossbridge we have guests that come, we have regular attenders, but we have members as well. You might assume that as long as you have a relationship with God and go to church that there is no need to be further identified with a local church and no point to formal membership. Allow us to give you a couple of reasons why we think this step in your journey with God is very important.

First, the concept of membership is biblical; although the term “church member” is never used, the idea is implicit throughout the New Testament. Believers in the early church clearly identified themselves with a local community and were challenged to become devoted participants. Paul writes these words to the group of believers in the city of Ephesus, “Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.” (Eph. 2:19 TLB)!

Secondly, formal membership is valuable to the leaders of the church as we seek to fulfill our God-given calling of overseeing Crossbridge. We hope to always be a church that welcomes and attracts people at various stages in their walks with God. It is important, however, to have individuals who are committed to helping us reach our vision of “Loving God. Loving People. Serving the World.” and our mission of “Helping people take the next step in their faith in Jesus.”

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, experience shows that membership benefits the individual. In a culture where commitment is no longer highly valued, recognizable membership is an important step that moves each of us out of vague clouds of good intentions and into the clear light of committed participation. Romans 12:5 says, “So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” By becoming a participating member at Crossbridge you are saying, “I belong to this family, I'm committed to this family, and I will help this family be all that God wants it to be.”





