

BEN WASHINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study Series – Part 5

“I am a Church Member”

Written By: Thom Rainer

Dr. Michael Oyedokun II, Pastor



I AM A CHURCH MEMBER



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I WILL LEAD MY FAMILY TO BE HEALTHY CHURCH MEMBERS

Biblical Principle

As a church member we are responsible for encouraging and leading our entire family to worship together in the church.

Biblical Passage(s) in Focus

Ephesians 5:22-26; Ephesians 6:1-4; Joshua 24:15; 1 Corinthians 7:10-17

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Ephesians 5:22-26

22. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in every thing. 25. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26. That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

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Ephesians 6:1-4

1. Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3. That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. 4. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

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Joshua 24:15

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

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1 Corinthians 7:10-17

10. And unto the married I command, [yet] not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from [her] husband: 11. But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to [her] husband: and let not the husband put away [his] wife. 12. But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. 13. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. 14. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. 15. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such [cases]: but God hath called us to peace. 16. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save [thy] husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save [thy] wife? 17. But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

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Life Impact and Lesson Goals

God's ideal plan, beginning in the Old Testament, is that we reach whole households. Noah's whole household was saved from God's judgement. (Genesis 7:1 KJV)

When God called Abraham to leave Ur of the Chaldee's (Genesis 12:1-5 KJV), He called the whole family along with his servants to enter the land of Canaan. Joshua said, "but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord". (Joshua 24:15 KJV)

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Life Impact and Lesson Goals

The principle of household evangelism is scriptural and supracultural. It worked among Jews, Gentiles, Greeks, and Romans. We to must find creative ways today in our culture to reach whole families for Christ in our churches.

Are all families whole in Christ? Unfortunately, all families are not whole in Christ, but the believing member(s) must not allow this to prevent them from being good church members. (1 Corinthians 7:10-17 KJV)

A Christian home can become a dynamic miniature church through which love and unity can be demonstrated to non-Christian families.

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Central Truth

Healthy church membership should not stop with me. I have a responsibility to model, teach, and encourage healthy church membership within my family.

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Lesson Objectives

- Spiritual leadership begins in the home.
- Parents and family leaders should model healthy church membership, not merely demand it.
- Our attitudes toward the church influence the attitudes of our families.
 - Families should worship, serve, pray, give, and grow together.
- The ultimate goal is not merely to produce regular church attenders, but committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

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This introduces an important principle:

Our families learn what we believe about church by watching how we behave toward the church.

Children especially notice the difference between what parents say is important and what parents demonstrate is important.

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Before I can lead my family toward healthy church membership, I must examine my own membership.

I cannot effectively lead someone where I am unwilling to go.

Ask yourself:

Can my family see me:

worshiping?

praying?

studying Scripture?

serving?

giving?

encouraging others?

supporting the mission of the church?

handling disagreements in a Christlike manner?

demonstrating respect for spiritual leadership?

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Be Careful How You Talk About the Church at Home

This is an important component of healthy church membership.

Ephesians 4:29 - “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying...”

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Lead Your Family to Worship Together

Hebrews 10:24–25 - “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...”

Corporate worship should be a priority rather than an occasional activity.

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Lead Your Family to Love the Church Despite Its Imperfections

Ephesians 5:25 - “Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”

This is essential...There is no perfect local church. Why?

Because churches contain people.

And people are imperfect.

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Healthy Families Handle Church Conflict Biblically

Conflict is inevitable.

Ephesians 4:31–32 - Paul teaches believers to put away bitterness and anger and instead practice kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness.

Our families are watching how we respond when church doesn't go our way.

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Lead your Family Members to PARTICIPATE in the Life of the Church

Church Participation Assumes that we've **WON** them to **CHRIST**

Church Participation Assumes that we're **WALKING** with **CHRIST**

Church Participation Assumes that we're **WORKING** in the **CHURCH**

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Lead your Family Members to PRAY for the Church.

Praying for the Church as a Family Assumes a **FAMILY ALTAR**

Praying for the Church as a Family Assumes a **FAMILY AGENDA**

Praying for the Church as a Family Assumes **FAMILY ASSEMBLY**

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Lead your Family Members to PRAISE Corporately

Praising God Corporately as a Family Assumes **COMMON CHRIST**

Praising God Corporately as a Family Assumes **COMMON CONVICTIONS**

Praising God Corporately as a Family Assumes **COMMON CHURCH**

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Lead your Family Members to be PASSIONATE for the Church

Passion for the Church Assumes **MUTUAL PASSION** for our Family Members

Passion for this Church Assumes **MUTUAL PRIORITY** for our Family Members

Passion for the Church Assumes **MUTUAL PROVISION** for our Family Members

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Questions?