

A wide-angle photograph of a city skyline at dusk. The sky is a mix of deep blue and purple, with some light clouds. The city lights are glowing, and the mountains in the background are silhouetted against the twilight sky. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

GOD'S CHURCH

GOD'S WAY»»

TOWARD A VIBRANT CHURCH

A wide-angle photograph of a city skyline at dusk. The city lights are glowing, and the mountains in the background are silhouetted against the twilight sky. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the top half of the image, containing text and a navigation arrow.

MEANINGFUL MEMBERSHIP

Meaningful Membership

Congregationally-governed:

God says his church is to be made up of members who enjoy responsibility for each other.

Elder-led:

God says his church is to be led, cared for, taught, and protected through a group of qualified and called men who share the responsibility to pastor the members.

Deacon-served:

God says his church is to be served by qualified and called men and women called deacons.

A wide-angle photograph of a city skyline at dusk or dawn. The city lights are glowing, and the mountains in the background are silhouetted against the sky. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the top half of the image, containing a navigation arrow and a title box.

MEANINGFUL MEMBERSHIP

Meaningful membership

Church on Mill is congregationally governed. God entrusts the final authority of and responsibility for the local church to the members; this is expressed biblically in four areas of decision-making. The members are responsible for:

Preserving unity and promoting holiness in matters of significant dispute between members (Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Corinthians 6:1-8)

Guarding the gospel message by removing Elders who teach a false gospel (Galatians 1:6-9)

Protecting the purity and reputation of the church by overseeing her membership (2 Corinthians 5-8; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, cf. Matthew 18:15-17)

Affirming the church's budget and office holders (Acts 6)



Congregationally-Governed

- **Who are genuine Christians?**
- **What is their understanding of the gospel?**

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (ESV)

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (ESV)

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.

¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (ESV)

¹⁶ make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (ESV)

¹⁹ member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (ESV)

²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (ESV)

²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Obstacles to Mutual Care

- **Inferior and insignificant**
- **Superior and self-sufficient**

“If we are Christians, the life of God has been poured into our souls through faith in the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. That life is the same life coursing through the souls of other Christians. So that now, we not only have fellowship with God but with all those who are in Christ.

And God means for our fellowship to end in holy, everlasting joy. May we taste of that joy even now.” -Thabiti Anyabwile

If you would like to talk to Chuck about the sermon, please feel free to call him, email him or friend him on Facebook.



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