



# **The Church: United in Membership**

[Matthew 12:46-50](#)

First in a 3-part series titled: *United*

Pastor Matt Friend – January 28 & 31, 2021

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## **– OUTLINE –**

### **Today's Big Idea:**

The Church is not something you go to; it's a family you belong to.

### **Five Ways the Church is Like One Big Family:**

- #1 – We're joined together by something greater than our personal preferences or life circumstances. ([John 17:1-11](#); [Romans 8:14-17](#); [Ephesians 2:11-22](#); [4:1-6](#))
- #2 – We have our own traditions and celebrations that are passed down from generation to generation. ([Matthew 26:26-29](#); [28:19](#); [Mark 14:22-25](#); [Luke 4:16](#); [22:13-20](#); [Acts 2:41-47](#); [8:12](#), [36-39](#); [9:18](#); [16:13-15](#), [31-34](#); [22:16](#); [Romans 12:10-13](#); [1 Corinthians 10:14-22](#); [11:17-34](#); [12:12-13](#); [2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#); [Colossians 2:12](#); [3:16](#); [1 Timothy 2:1-2](#); [2 Timothy 4:1-4](#); [Hebrews 10:24-25](#))
- #3 – We don't always get along, but that doesn't stop us from having each other's backs. ([Matthew 5:9](#); [Romans 12:18](#); [14:1-15:33](#); [Ephesians 4:32](#); [Hebrews 12:14-15](#))
- #4 – We get fed constantly, whether we're hungry or not. ([Psalms 19:7-11](#); [Matthew 4:4](#); [John 17:17](#); [Romans 10:13-17](#); [Ephesians 4:11-16](#); [Colossians 3:16](#); [1 Thessalonians 2:13](#); [2 Timothy 3:15-17](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#); [2 Peter 1:3-4](#))
- #5 – We actively commit to one another's well-being, through thick and thin.

### **Today's Action Step**

Sign up for the next [Membership Night](#) (Friday, February 12, 6:30-9:00 PM on Zoom)

### **Here's the Ultimate Reason:**

The Church is not something you go to; it's a family you belong to.

### **Resource Recommendation**



[\*I am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference\*](#)

By: Thom S. Rainer



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– NOTES –

## **Introduction**

Matthew 12 tells the story of one of the most offensive things Jesus ever said. It was irritating to His audience 2,000 years ago, and it's still repugnant to our culture today.

While teaching, His mother and brothers wanted to speak with Him. To the person relaying the message, Jesus replied, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?’ Pointing to His disciples, He said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.’” –Matthew 12:48-50 (NIV)

## **Today's Big Idea:**

The Church is not something you go to; it's a family you belong to.

→ Notice the family language used throughout the New Testament, including in places like [Acts 2:41-47](#); [Romans 12:10](#); and [1 Timothy 5:1-2](#).

## **Five Ways the Church is Like One Big Family:**

#1 – We're joined together by something greater than our personal preferences or life circumstances. ([John 17:1-11](#); [Romans 8:14-17](#); [Ephesians 2:11-22](#); [4:1-6](#))

The big question in the early church is the same big question we have today, “How can the Church hold together when Christians are so different from each other?” There was much division in the first century church over things like what you ate, what you drank, and which holidays you celebrated.

What was God's solution to not do? “Be in different churches.”

God didn't say, “Have a church for the carnivores over here and the vegetarians over there. Those who enjoy wine here and teetotalers there. Have a church for the Jews here and for the Gentiles there.” That would've been easier, but it's not what He said.



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Instead, throughout the New Testament, God calls us to build unity around clearly revealed, objective, gospel truth. The only way the Christians in Rome could overcome their differences was to focus on core truth... and the same is true for us today!

This is why we've been actively engaged in teaching through our new [Member Statement of Faith](#) for the last 5 months. Core doctrinal truth creates unity, preventing us from majoring on the minors and minoring on the majors!

#2 – We have our own traditions and celebrations that are passed down from generation to generation. ([Matthew 26:26-29; 28:19; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 4:16; 22:13-20; Acts 2:41-47; 8:12, 36-39; 9:18; 16:13-15, 31-34; 22:16; Romans 12:10-13; 1 Corinthians 10:14-22; 11:17-34; 12:12-13; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Colossians 2:12; 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; Hebrews 10:24-25](#))

What traditions and celebrations does your family enjoy?

In the same way, the family of God—the Church—has its own traditions and celebrations, passed down from generation to generation, such as:

- Coming together for worship ([Hebrews 10:24-25](#))
- Baptizing believers ([Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:12, 36-39; 9:18; 16:13-15, 31-34; 22:16; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Colossians 2:12](#))
- Taking communion ([Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:13-20; John 6:1-59; 1 Corinthians 10:14-22; 11:17-34](#))
- Reading the Bible together ([Luke 4:16](#))
- Showing hospitality ([Romans 12:10-13](#))
- Giving to the mission ([2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#))
- Singing ([Colossians 3:16](#))
- Praying for national and community leaders ([1 Timothy 2:1-2](#))
- Preaching ([2 Timothy 4:1-4](#))

Be encouraged! If you're a Jesus follower, you're part of something ancient and eternal!

#3 – We don't always get along, but that doesn't stop us from having each other's backs. ([Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18; 14:1-15:33; Ephesians 4:32; Hebrews 12:14-15](#))



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Even in the best of families, brothers and sisters don't always get along, but hopefully that doesn't stop one from having the other's back.

The church family functions in a similar way.

We will not always agree. We will not always see eye to eye in every area. We will make mistakes. We will even disagree over preferential issues. However, may God help us to give one another the freedom to disagree on some things. When we do hurt one another, may we be quick to repent and apologize, and—most importantly—to always have one another's backs.

This is what Jesus says will make us different from the world. Our world is divided on epic proportions; however, Jesus' Church is called to be peculiar, different, and special. The unity we have in Christ is, indeed, counter-cultural to our divided world.

#4 – We get fed constantly, whether we're hungry or not. ([Psalm 19:7-11](#); [Matthew 4:4](#); [John 17:17](#); [Romans 10:13-17](#); [Ephesians 4:11-16](#); [Colossians 3:16](#); [1 Thessalonians 2:13](#); [2 Timothy 3:15-17](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#); [2 Peter 1:3-4](#))

Each mom and grandma I know wants to make sure her babies and grandbabies are fed. Most try to heap food on their children's plate, long after they are full.

Your church desires to serve you in much the same way, spiritually speaking. We work hard to make sure you have every opportunity to feed on God's Word.

- Weekly services on campus, [online](#), and on [TV](#)
- Weekly sermon with extensive notes
- [Core Classes](#)
- A diverse menu of [groups](#)
- Reading through the [Bible](#) together
- [Kids](#) instruction
- [Celebrate Recovery](#)
- [Spiritual Care & Counseling](#)
- [Books & Study Materials](#)

#5 – We actively commit to one another's well-being, through thick and thin.



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## **Today's Action Step**

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→ What is it? It's a peek behind the curtain at our core beliefs, discipleship mission, gospel vision, strategic plan, core values, staff team, and ministry practices. It's also a valuable time to interact with our staff.

## **Why Find a Church and Become a Member?**

- #1 – Community always involves commitment. ([Genesis 17:1-14](#); [Exodus 12:43-49](#); [Deuteronomy 29:9-13](#); [Matthew 4:18-22](#); [16:24](#); [Luke 14:25-33](#); [Hebrews 10:24-25](#))
- #2 – Church membership is God's strategy for making sure you receive proper care. ([Acts 4:32-37](#); [Romans 16:1-16](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:12-13](#); [1 Timothy 5:3-16](#); [James 2:14-17](#); [5:14](#))
- #3 – Church membership is God's strategy for making sure genuine believers are the ones teaching, leading, and voting in the church. ([Matthew 16:16-19](#); [Acts 6:1-7](#); [20:28-31](#))
- #4 – Church membership is God's gift to protect our spiritual growth. ([Matthew 18:15-20](#); [Galatians 6:1-10](#))
- #5 – Church membership is God's gift to pastors and shepherds to know the people for whom they will give an account. ([Acts 20:28](#); [Titus 1:7](#); [Hebrews 13:7, 17](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#))

## **Here's the Ultimate Reason:**

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## **Resource Recommendation**

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