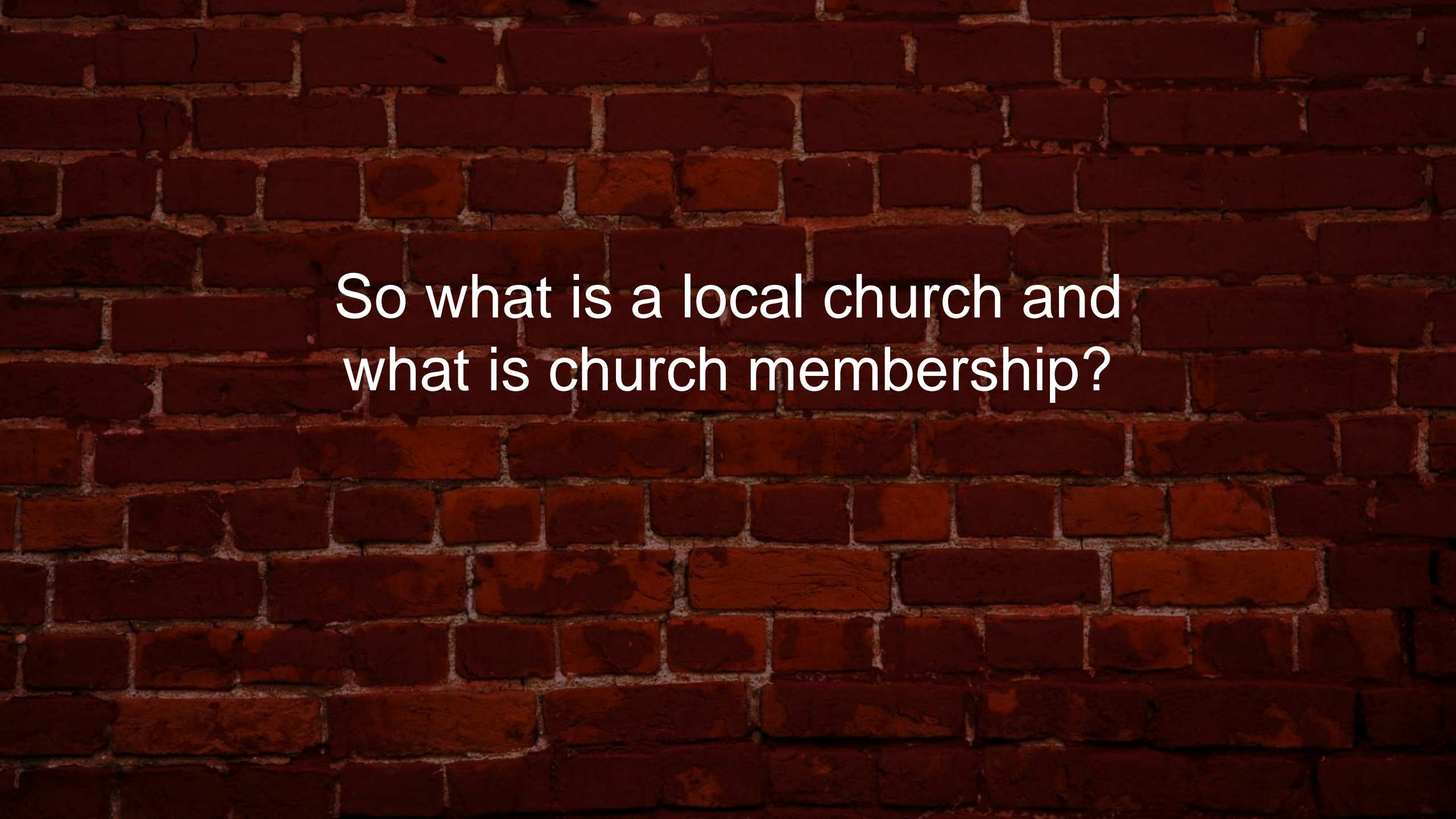


Why We Belong: Meaningful Membership in the Local Church

1 Timothy 3:14-15

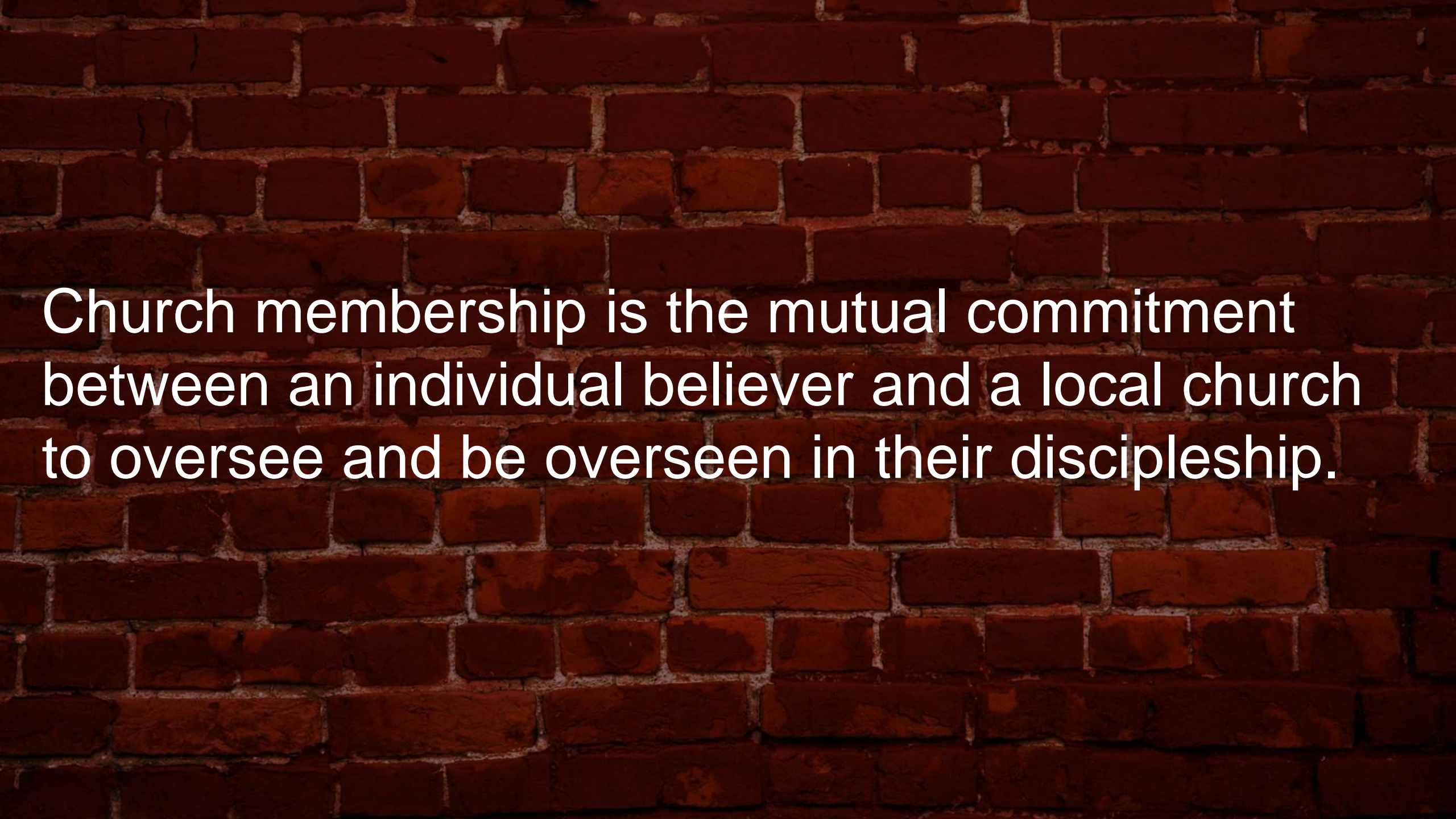


Church membership provides the means for biblical identity, oversight, service, and community.

A dark red brick wall with a repeating pattern of bricks and mortar. The text is centered in the middle of the wall.

So what is a local church and
what is church membership?

A local church is a group of Christians who gather regularly in Christ's name to officially affirm and oversee one another's membership in Jesus Christ and his kingdom through gospel preaching, gospel ordinances, and ongoing discipleship. They are led by biblically qualified pastors/elders, and served by deacons to live on mission for Jesus Christ (Matt. 16; 18; 28).



Church membership is the mutual commitment between an individual believer and a local church to oversee and be overseen in their discipleship.

A dark red brick wall with a repeating pattern of bricks and mortar. The text is centered in the middle of the wall.

Is there evidence that church membership is biblical?

1. The church is a new covenant reality where those who are members will be affirmed as believing in Jesus.
2. There is a keeping of numbers that mark out specific local churches (Acts 1:15; 2:41, 47; 4:4).
3. Christians collectively identify themselves as churches (Acts 8:3; 11:22; 12:1, 5; 14:27).
4. God aims for us to be involved in genuine community (Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 12:24-26).
5. First steps of entering church life are belief in Jesus and baptism (Acts 2:38; 8:12; 9:18; 16:33).

6. Christian leaders are made responsible for specific sheep (1 Peter 5:2; Heb. 13:17; Acts 20:28).

7. Christians are responsible to submit to specific leaders (Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 5:17).

8. It is where you express your spiritual gifts and service to others (1 Cor. 12:7, 12-26; Eph. 4:11-16, 25-32).

9. Christians exclude unrepentant people from the fellowship (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:13; Titus 3:10; 1 John 2:19).

10. The local church is a window serving as a witness to the nations (John 13:34-35).

A dark red brick wall with a visible mortar pattern, serving as the background for the text.

Why is membership critical to
church health?

1. Church membership helps us know who we are (identity).

2. Church membership places us in submission to biblical authority/oversight

3. Church membership calls us to mutual service to one another

4. Church membership offers accountability for continual growth in discipleship in community

A dark red brick wall with a repeating pattern of bricks and mortar. The text is centered in the middle of the wall.

How is membership made
meaningful?

1. The members of a church should be Christians.
2. The members of a church should be regular attenders.
3. Members should view the church as their primary context for fellowship and ministry.
4. The members of a church should have certain biblical privileges and responsibilities.



Church membership provides the means for biblical identity, oversight, service, and community.