



The Year of H.O.P.E.

HEALING. OUTREACH. PRAISE & WORSHIP. EMPOWERMENT

November 1, 2016

I AM A CHURCH MEMBER

Introduction: **Diffusion of responsibility** is a sociopsychology phenomenon whereby a person is less likely to take **responsibility** for action or inaction when others are present. Individuals assume that others either are **responsible** for taking action or have already done so.

“Research of 557 churches from 2004 to 2010 revealed, nine out of ten churches in America are **declining**.” p.4-5

“We join our churches expecting others to serve us, to feed us and to care for us. We don’t like hypocrites in the church, but we fail to see our own hypocrisies. God did not give us local churches to become country clubs where membership means we have privileges and perks. He placed us in churches to serve, to care for others, to pray for leaders, to learn, to teach, to give, and, in some cases, to die for the sake of the gospel.” p.5-6

First Pledge: I Will Be a Functioning Church Member

1. Membership Means We Are All **Necessary** Parts of the Whole **1 Corinthians 12:12-13; 27-30**
2. Membership Means We Are **Different** But We All Still Work Together **1 Corinthians 12:13-26**
3. Membership Means **Everything** We Say and Do Is Based on Love **1 Corinthians 13:1-5**
4. Expectations of a **Functioning** Member **Acts 2:41-47**
5. Be **Baptized** **Acts 2:41**
6. Be **Devoted** to being Taught and Fellowships **Acts 2:42**
7. Participate in **Breaking of Bread** (Communion, Dinners, Community Meals...) **Acts 2:42**
8. Be **Prayerful** **Acts 2:42**
9. See God’s **hands** and **power** (Awe, Wonders, Signs, Miracles...) **Acts 2:43**
10. Be **together** **Acts 2:43**
11. Be **excited** to Giving and be Generous **Acts 2:45**
12. Be **Helpful** to Each Other **Acts 2:45**
13. Praise **God** **Acts 2:47**
14. Be **concerned** for Everyone **Acts 2:47**

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The First Pledge

I am a church member.

I like the metaphor of membership. It's not membership as in a civic organization or a country club. It's the kind of membership given to us in 1 Corinthians 12: "Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it" (1 Cor. 12:27).

Because I am a member of the body of Christ, I must be a functioning member, whether I am an "eye," an "ear," or a "hand." As a functioning member, I will give. I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others. I will remember that "if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it: if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it" (1 Cor. 12:26).

Sign and Date