**SERMON OUTLINE 1**

***I Will Be a Functioning Church Member***

Text: 1 Cor. 12:12-31

1. **Introduction:A tale of two church members**
   1. Michael - persevering in the church,a different kind of church member
   2. Liam - disengaged at church,decides to leave
   3. Church member stats
      1. Nine out of ten churches in America are declining or growing at a pace slower than that of their communities.
      2. Two-thirds of the Builder generation is Christians; Fifteen percent of Millennials are Christians.
2. **Sermon text: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

12 For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body-so also is Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 So the body is not one part but many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I'm not a hand, I don't belong to the body," in spite of this it still belongs to the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I'm not an eye, I don't belong to the body," in spite of this it still belongs to the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed each one of the parts in one body just as He wanted. 19 And if they were all the same part, where would the body be? 20 Now there are many parts, yet one body.

21 So the eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" Or again, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 But even more, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are necessary. 23 And those parts of the body that we think

to be less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unpresentable parts have a better presentation. 24 But our presentable parts have no need of clothing. Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, 25 so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other. 26 So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. 28 And God has placed these in the church:

first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, next miracles, then gifts of healing, helping,

managing, various kinds of languages.

29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles?

30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in other languages? Do all interpret?

31 But desire the greater gifts. And I will show you an even better way.

### Ill. Point 1 - Membership means we are all necessary parts of the whole

* 1. Biblical membership versus culture's definition of membership
  2. Biblical definition of membership - 1 Cor. 12:27-28

1. **Point 2 - Membership means we are different but we still work together**
   1. Each part of the Body has to do its own work
   2. The Body suffers when we fail to do our part - 1Cor. 12:26
2. **Point 3 - Membership means everything we say and do is based on biblical foundation of love**
   1. Biblical definition of love - 1 Cor. 13
   2. We do not love because people are loveable
   3. Love is the foundation of church membership
3. **Point 4 - Church membership is functioning membership**
   1. Country club membership (pay your dues) versus biblical church membership (give abundantly and serve without hesitation)
   2. Biblical membership is a functioning membership - 1Cor. 12:12-26
4. **Concluslon:Take the first pledge**

"Iam a church member. I like the metaphor of membership. It's not a membership as in a civic organization or a country club. It's the kind of membership given to us in 1 Cor. 12: 'Nowyou 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. 72:26).

# I A M A C H U R C H M E M B E R

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