

## The Doctrine of the Church *The Covenant Community: Church Membership (Part 2)*

### a) Church Membership

#### iii) Biblical Necessity of Church Membership

##### a) The Need for Being “Stirred Up” Through Our Assembly

(1) The Context of Hebrews 10:19-25

(2) The Content Hebrews 10:24-25

(3) The conclusion: Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us how to live out our Christian life in light of the work of Christ by assembling with one another to encourage and stir one another up to love and good works, all of which we can’t do that without a covenant commitment to the local church.

(a) We need other Christians, not just any Christians, but a particular group of Christians we have a covenant relationship with in a local church, assembling with one another and committing to encourage one another and stir one another up to love and good works

##### b) The Need for Maturity Through God’s Gifts

(1) NT Terminology for “Spiritual Gifts.”

(a) The New Testament terminology for “spiritual gifts” is diverse. Tom Schreiner points out that Paul uses the following terms:<sup>1</sup>

(i) spiritual things (*pneumatika*, 1 Cor 12:1; 14:1)

(ii) spirits (*pneumata*, 1 Cor 14:12)

(iii) manifestations of the Spirit (*phanerosis tou pneumatos*, 1 Cor 12:7)

(iv) gifts (*charismata*, Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 12:4, 31)

(v) gift (*charis*, Eph 4:7)

(vi) gifts (*domata*, Eph 4:8)

(vii) ministries (*diakonai*, 1 Cor 12:5)

(viii) results or effects (*energemata*, 1 Cor 12:6)

(b) Schreiner explains, “the words *charisma*, *charis*, and *doma* emphasize the gracious character of the gifts. They are *gifts* – given by God for the good of his people. The words *pneumatikos* and *pneuma* and the phrase *phanerosis tou pneumatos* stress that these gifts are the result of the Spirit’s work. In this sense all the gifts are spiritual endowments from God. *Diakonai* features the service-character of the gifts. These gifts are given to help others in the faith, while *energemata* indicates that concrete results are seen in everyday life because of the gifts.”

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from Tomas R. Schreiner’s “Paul: Apostle of God’s Glory in Christ” (Downers Grove: IVP, 2001), 352

(2) A NT Purpose for Spiritual Gifts (Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:12)

(3) A NT Inference Regarding Spiritual Gifts: We can't be built up to maturity in Christ without God's gifts through other Christians in the local church.

(a) We need other Christians, not just any Christians, but a particular group of Christians we have a covenant relationship with in a local church, who use what God has gifted us for the common good of equipping the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

c) The Need for Spiritual Leadership (Hebrews 13:17)

(1) "Obey your leaders and submit to them..."

(2) "For they are keeping watch over your souls..."

(3) "As those who will have to give an account."

(4) "Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

(5) Hebrews tells us that we need leaders to watch over our souls – it is God's command for our good.

(a) We need other Christians, not just any Christians, but a particular group of Christians we have a covenant relationship with in a local church, where we have a common understanding with the leadership that we submit to them as they watch over our souls, for my good and God's glory.