

**BEING PART
of the
BODY of
CHRIST**

***CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP***

**Ps Ng SM
30th Aug 2020**

Introduction

We Are Living in an Age of

↪ *Consumerism*

↪ *"Instant" Generation*

↪ *"Me" Generation*

↪ *PostModernism*

➤ *The 'customer' is always **RIGHT** !*

➤ *What I want, I want it **NOW** !*

➤ *What's in it for **ME** ?*

➤ *Relativism - **No absolutes***

➤ *Truth is Relative...*

Let Me Judge For Myself !

➤ *If It Feels Good – It Must Be Right*

↪ *Post-PostModernism*

➤ *????*



Living in the Age of....

- ↳ Consumerism
- ↳ "Instant" Generation
- ↳ "Me" Generation
- ↳ PostModernism
- ↳ Post-PostModernism ??

Not only in the World

- ↳ But when we start bringing that kind of **MINDSET** into Church
- ↳ When deciding which Church to attend ...
 - ↳ to join ...
 - ↳ to be a member of
- ↳ If you just want to hear the best sermons ...
 "Channel Surfing".....
 - ↳ best worship experience
 - ↳ best Children program...
- ↳ When it's all about **ME.... NOW...**
 - ↳ What I want ...
 - ↳ How I feel ...



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Consumer Christianity
Spectator Christianity
Hitch-Hiker Christianity

Living in the Age of....

- ↪ Consumerism
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Q: Is that what Church is all about ?

*Q: Are those the RIGHT CRITERIAS to
decide and choose a church ?*

WHAT is CHURCH ?

WHY attend CHURCH ?

Attend CHURCH for WHO ?



Introduction

Church is **NOT ABOUT ME or YOU**

Church is **ALL ABOUT GOD....**

Church is about God's Son - **Jesus Christ,**

His Kingdom, His Sacrifice ...

His Purpose, His Glory...

Advancing **His Gospel** into all the world...

Living in the Age of....

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Questions to ask in Finding A Church:

Is The CHURCH ...

Christ centered ?



Bible centered ?



Fulfilling her Great Commission ?



Working out : Loving God,

Loving Our Neighbor and

Loving One-Another ?



Questions / Comments / Responses about
BEING PART of the BODY of CHRIST.....

*I have accepted Christ that's enough,
why must I be a member of the Church ?*

*Show me in the Bible where it says I
must join as a member of the Church?*

*The Church are full of sinners and hypocrites,
why must I join them?*

*I can worship God just as well in my
room/house or
even in the great outdoors, why must I join
the Church?*

*Christ have set me free, the Church have too many rules,
why must I join the Church?*

I am part of the Universal Church and that's what counts



*A lot of our issues / questions / problems about
BEING PART of the BODY of CHRIST
will be & can be SOLVED*

IF

*we have the **correct Biblical understanding**
of the **CHURCH**
especially **the LOCAL CHURCH.***



Summary of EKKLESIA - the CHURCH

The CHURCH is God's Idea / Ordained

The CHURCH is Founded Upon CHRIST &

His Finished Work on the Cross

The CHURCH is Christ Led &

Holy Spirit Empowered

The CHURCH is BY GOD, OF GOD & FOR GOD

**BEING PART of the BODY of CHRIST
- Church Membership**



Biblical Basis

UNIVERSAL Church

- All who put their faith in Jesus Christ
 - Past ...
 - Present ...
 - Future ...
- Automatic membership ...
- Do not meet
No consistent fellowship, celebration, encouragement, refining,...
- Do not serve together
- Cannot fulfill God's mission

the LOCAL Church

- Community of believers
 - who choose to ...
 - meet regularly
 - as an assembly
 - that together we celebrate and worship, learn & grow, love & encourage, admonish & discipline, minister & serve ONE ANOTHER
 - in fulfilling God's Purpose & Mission in the world and for the world.

BEING PART of the BODY of CHRIST
- Church Membership



LOCAL Church is a Tangible...
Functional....
Physical Reality.

**BEING PART of the BODY of CHRIST was ASSUMED
in the New Testament,**

Eg Jesus in Matt 16 – Church Universal

Jesus in Matt 18 – Local Church

Church Membership was never an issue in ...

↪ **Early Church Age**

↪ **Middle Ages / Reformation**

↪ **British Empire / American Colonies**

↪ **Up until the 19th / 20th Century....**

**BEING PART of the BODY of CHRIST
– Church Membership**



Biblical Basis

LOCAL Church is a Tangible, Functional, Physical Reality

BEING PART of the BODY of CHRIST is ASSUMED in the NT

↪ Counting of new converts Acts 2:41; 4:4

↪ Meeting together Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor 11:17

“the church that meets at their house” 4x

↪ Choosing Acts 6:3; 15:22

↪ Church in homes & towns Pauline letters, Rev 2 & 3

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- Church Membership



Biblical Basis

- ↪ BodyLife 1 Cor 12;
- ↪ Testimony John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: **LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**
As I have loved you, so you **MUST** love one another.
BY THIS ALL MEN WILL KNOW that you are my disciples,
if you love one another."

ONLY WAY the WORLD WILL KNOW that we are Christ's
Disciples is by the **LOVE** we have/show for one another.



Biblical Basis

LOCAL Church is a Tangible, Functional, Physical Reality

BEING PART of the BODY of CHRIST is ASSUMED in the NT

- ↪ Church imagery - Body, Building, Family, Flock...
- ↪ Church offices – 1 Tim 3; Titus 1; 1 Peter 5
- ↪ Accountability - 1 Peter 4:5; Heb 13:17
- ↪ Church discipline – Matt 18, 1 Cor 5

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- Church Membership



1. COMMITMENT:

Member to Church :

- Personal Devotion
- Praying
- Attendance @ Sunday Celebration
- Participation in the Life of the Church eg Discipleship Gps, Prayer Meetings, Ministries ...

Church to Member :

- Shepherding
- Feeding
- Discipling
- Disciplining

BEING PART of the BODY of CHRIST
– Church Membership



2. CONTRIBUTION:

Member to Church

- Time
- Service / Giftings
- Possessions
- Finance

Church to Member

- A Place To Learn
- A Place to Share
- A Place To Serve
- A Place To Grow

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– Church Membership



3. CONDUCT:

Member to Church

- Character
- Speech
- Hands for Christ
- Light & Salt

Church to Member

- Affirmation
- Encouragement
- Accountability & Discipline
- Love & Support

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– Church Membership



Church Membership – worked out...

FELLOWSHIP....

(Borrowing from David Pawson)

- 1. Same Father**
- 2. Same Saviour**
- 3. Same Spirit**
- 4. Same Book**
- 5. Same Destination**

- **Must Be Discovered**
- **Must Be Developed**
- **Must Be Protected**



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– Church Membership

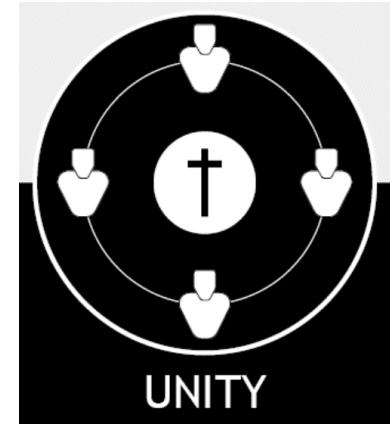
FELLOWSHIP

'One Another's' in the NT...

- 100 times in 94 NT Verses
- 47 - INSTRUCTIONS to Christians
 - 15 (33%) focus on UNITY
 - 15 (33%) focus on LOVE
 - 7 (15%) on HUMILITY

ἀλλήλων

(ah-LAY-loan)



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What cute animals are this ?

Parable of the Hedgehogs

CHURCH ...

is a HOSPITAL...

Forgiven

is a gathering of SINNERS...

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Conclusion :

Better Understanding of the Church

↳ **Better Appreciation of the Local Church...**

↳ **Recognise the Need & Importance of Local Church Membership**

↳ **Not only being a Member ...**

↳ **BUT being a Good Member by your....**

↳ **Commitment**

↳ **Contribution....**

↳ **Conduct....**



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In Conclusion :

Please DO NOT Be a

- **HERMIT Christian**
- **BUTTERFLY Christian**
- **HITCH-HIKER Christian**



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SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

OUR VISION
 TRANSFORMING LIVES
 EXPANDING HIS KINGDOM

OUR MISSION
 WE ARE DISCIPLES, CALLED TO PRODUCE OTHER FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST
 WE SEEK TO BRING GOD'S KINGDOM INTO ALL SPHERES OF LIFE*

*Sphere of Life: the 7 Mountains/Reains of Arts & Entertainment, Business, Education, Family, Government, Media, Religion

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP >>>>>
 SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS GOD'S PLAN

You became a member of the universal church when you accepted Christ as your personal Saviour, Lord and Master. God's Plan is for you to also be a part of a Local Church to continue following Him. The local Church – Eklesia (Gk) meaning "a called-out assembly" – is God's chosen vehicle for His children to assemble to Worship, Learn, Share, Serve, and Grow together to fulfil His Purpose and Plan for the world.

Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church (SSMC) seeks to be just such a Church through **Transforming Lives** and **Expanding God's Kingdom**, doing our part in preparing the way for Christ's Return.



>>> Know your faith
 Walk your faith
 Share your faith
 Protect your faith

WHY IS CHURCH IMPORTANT?

Church should be important to you because it is important to your Saviour. God's people have always been a communal people throughout Biblical history; in the New Testament, after Pentecost, believers gathered and fellowshiped together in homes and other places of worship. The building is secondary for 'Church' refers to God's people assembling together.

Jesus Christ

- **ESTABLISHED** the Church – "on this rock I will build my church" (Matt 16:18b).
- **PURCHASED** the Church – "Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood" (Acts 20:28b).
- **LOVES** the Church – "just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Eph 5:25).
- **HEAD** of the Church – "He is the head of the body, the church" (Col 1:18).
- **PROTECTS** the Church – "and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matt 16:18b)
- **RETURNING** for the church – "to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless" (Eph 5:27).



BENEFITS OF LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

God instituted the local Church so that His Children can belong to a spiritual family for Fellowship, Mutual Encouragement and Accountability so that together we will be able to Serve, Minister and Grow in our Faith.

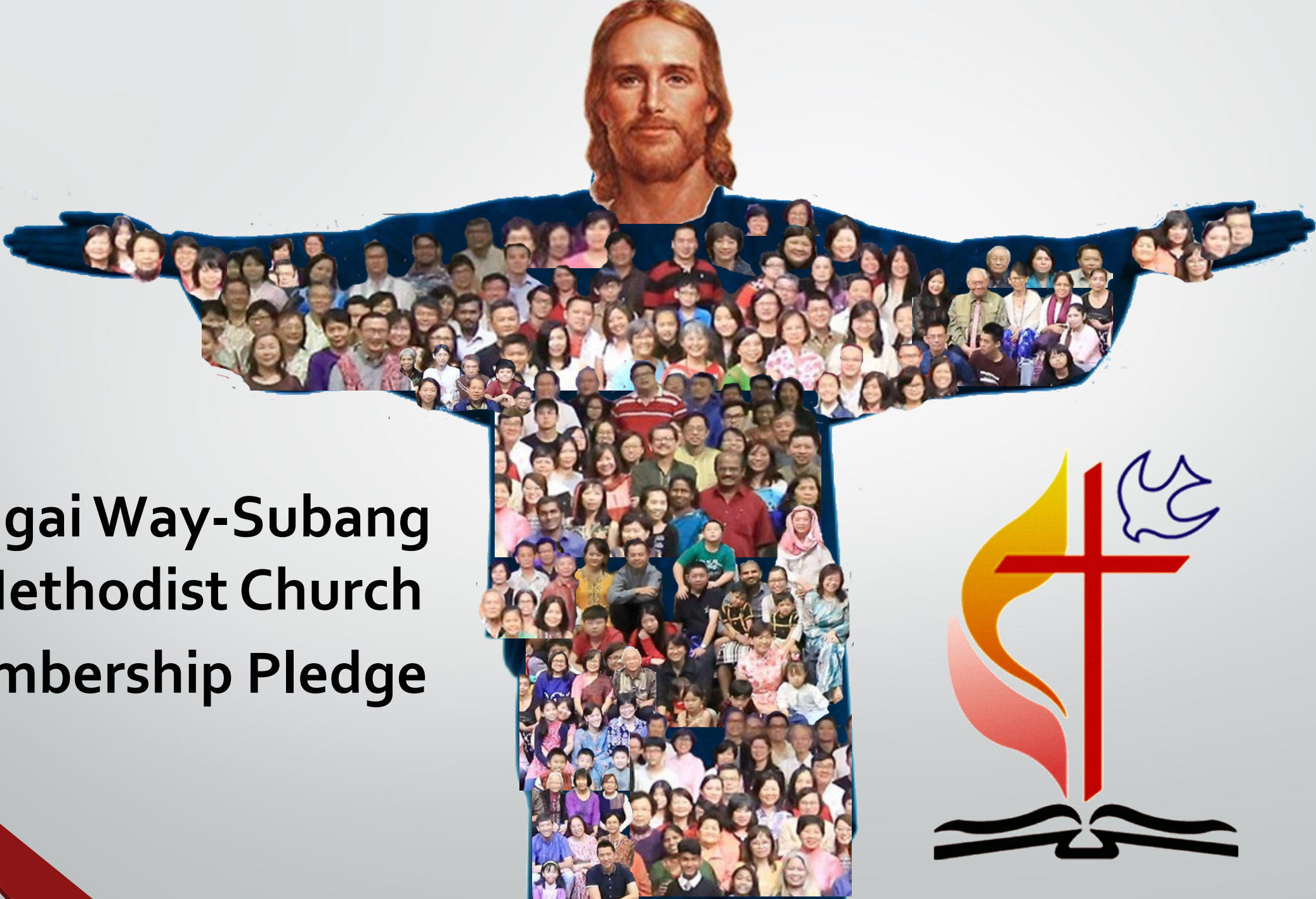
- **A Place to Belong:** If Christ is your Saviour, the Church is your family. You need the Church; the church needs you – mutually beneficial.
- **A Place to Learn:** Faith is best taught and caught in the loving community of a Church.
- **A Place to Grow:** Acceptance and Accountability within the Church family should help everyone to grow in Christlikeness.
- **A Place to Serve:** Bringing our many and varied Giftings and using them together to build up the Body of Christ will greatly enhance the work of the Gospel into the world.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Church Membership has its Benefits as well as Responsibilities. You become an integral part of a Local Church responsible to build herself up in love as well as to bring the Gospel to those in need.

- **Attend Regularly** – "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another" (Heb 10:25).
- **Be a Disciple** – "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). This is best done within the context of a Discipleship Group.
- **Cheerfully Give** – "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7).
- **Daily Pray** – "pray continually" (1 Thes 5:17).
- **Exemplary Witness** – "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).
- **Faithfully Serve** – "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men" (Eph 6:7).

BEING PART of the BODY of CHRIST
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Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church Membership Pledge



Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church Membership Pledge

**Q1. Do you here, in the presence of God,
and of this congregation, renew the
solemn promise and vow that you
made at your Baptism?**

Answer : 'I do'



Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church Membership Pledge

**Q2 : Do you confess Jesus Christ as
your Lord and Savior and pledge
your allegiance to His Kingdom?**

Answer : 'I do'



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Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church Membership Pledge

**Q3. Do you receive and profess the
Christian faith as contained in the
Scriptures of the Old and New
Testaments?**

Answer: 'I do'



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Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church Membership Pledge

Q4 : Do you promise according to the grace given you to live a Christian life and always remain a faithful member of Christ's holy Church?

Answer : 'I do'



**BEING PART of the BODY of CHRIST
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BEING PART of the BODY of CHRIST
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Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church Membership Pledge

**Q5 : Will you be loyal to
Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church,
and uphold her by your prayers, your
presence, your gifts and your service ?**

Answer : 'I Will'



Welcome To The
Body Of Christ In...

Sungai Way-Subang
Methodist Church



Paraphrasing from John F Kennedy
**"ASK NOT what the
CHURCH can DO FOR YOU,
ASK What YOU can
DO FOR the CHURCH."**



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- Church Membership

