

Lesson 20 – The Ideal Church Member (OUTLINE)

I. Introduction

- A. While no church member is perfect, and not likely to become completely victorious in life, there is much that we can all do to attain greater heights of the Christian experience.
- B. This lesson presents the goal of which all church members should strive.

II. **A redeemed person.** An ideal church member is one who is saved by the blood of Christ. Read: John 1:13; Ephesians 2:8-9

III. **A baptized believer.** An ideal church member is one who has, in obedience to Christ, been baptized.

IV. **A faithful attendant.** An ideal church member is one who is faithful to their church and all its services and programs.

V. **A cooperating member.** An ideal church member is one who cooperates with and abides by the will of the majority of the church members in matters of policy and directions of approach.

VI. A consistent follower.

- A. It will be agreed that an ideal church member is one who lives a consistent Christian life day by day.
- B. One of the most difficult problems of a church is the inconsistent living of so many of its members.

VII. **A Bible student.** An ideal church member is one who reads and studies the Bible regularly. Read: Psalm 119:105; Psalm 119:11

VIII. **A praying Christian.** An ideal church member is one who is fervent in prayer. Read: Luke 18:1

IX. **An adventurous (optimistic) believer.** An ideal church member is one who is moved by their faith in God. He will expect “great things from God and undertake great things for God.”

X. **A tither.** An ideal church member will cheerfully give their tithes and offerings to support the cause of Christ.

XI. **A spirit filled witness.** An ideal church member is filled with Holy Spirit. Read Ephesians 5:18

XII. An ardent soul-winner.

- A. The mark of an ideal church member is an earnest desire to be a soul-winner.
- B. A soul-winner may never bear his testimony publicly, and people may know little of his efforts, but in private, personal contact, he seeks to lead those about him to Christ.

XIII. What kind of church member are you?

Read the poem: **I Met the Master Face to Face by Lorrie Cline.**

I had walked life's path with an easy tread
Had followed where comfort and pleasure led;
And then one day in a quiet place
I met the Master, face to face.

"I met Him and knew Him, and blushed to see
That eyes full of sorrow were turned on me;
And I faltered, and fell at His feet that day,
While all my castles melted away.

"With station and rank and wealth for a goal
Much thought for the body, but none for the soul;
I had thought to win in life's mad race,
When I met the Master, face to face.

"Melted and vanished, and in their place
I saw nought else but my Master's face;
And I cried aloud: "Oh, make me meet
To follow the path of Thy wounded feet."

"I had built my castles and reared them high,
Till their towers pierced the blue of the sky,
I had vowed to rule with an iron mace,
When I met the Master, face to face.

"And now my thoughts are for the souls of men,
I've lost my life, to find it again.
E'er since that day in a quiet place
I met the Master, face to face.

Questions:

1. What are the dangers of unsaved people belonging to the Church?
2. Why is it important for church members to be baptized?
3. Why should a church member be a Bible student?
4. Why is it important for a church member to pray?
5. Why is it important for a church member to tithe?
6. In what ways can a church member be a soul winner?

Discussion: What is the **greatest fault** among church members today?

Assignment:

- Memory work study: Matthew 18:17
- Assignment: be prepared to tell something about the income and budget of our church.

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II. A redeemed person. An ideal church member is one who is saved by the blood of Christ. Read:

- John 1:13 *¹²But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*
- Ephesians 2:8-9 *⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹not of works, lest any man should boast.*

III. A baptized believer. An ideal church member is one who has, in obedience to Christ, been baptized.

IV. A faithful attendant. An ideal church member is one who is faithful to their church and all its services and programs.

V. A cooperating member. An ideal church member is one who cooperates with and abides by the will of the majority of the church members in matters of policy and directions of approach.

VI. A consistent follower.

- A. It will be agreed that an ideal church member is one who lives a consistent Christian life day by day.

B. One of the most difficult problems of a church is the inconsistent living of so many of its members.

VII. A Bible student. An ideal church member is one who reads and studies the Bible regularly. Read:

- Psalm 119:105
*¹⁰⁵Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
And a light unto my path.
¹⁰⁶I have sworn, and I will perform it,
That I will keep thy righteous judgments.*
- Psalm 119:11
*¹¹Thy word have I hid in mine heart,
That I might not sin against thee.*

VIII. A praying Christian. An ideal church member is one who is fervent in prayer. Read:
Luke 18:1 *¹And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

IX. An adventurous (optimistic) believer. An ideal church member is one who is moved by their faith in God. He will expect “great things from God and undertake great things for God.”

X. A tither. An ideal church member will cheerfully give their tithes and offerings to support the cause of Christ.

XI. A spirit filled witness. An ideal church member is filled with Holy Spirit. Read
Ephesians 5:18 *¹⁸And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; **but be filled with the Spirit;***

XII. An ardent soul-winner.

A. The mark of an ideal church member is an earnest desire to be a soul-winner.

- B. A soul-winner may never bear his testimony publicly, and people may know little of his efforts, but in private, personal contact, he seeks to lead those about him to Christ.

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7. What are the dangers of unsaved people belonging to the Church?
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9. Why should a church member be a Bible student?
10. Why is it important for a church member to pray?
11. Why is it important for a church member to tithe?
12. In what ways can a church member be a soul winner?

Discussion: What is the **greatest fault** among church members today?

Assignment:

- Memory work study: Matthew 18:17 *17And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*
- Assignment: be prepared to tell something about the income and budget of our church.