

## First Love Priority: The Family of Jesus

Text: Various

October 4, 2025

**Big Idea:** When Jesus is our first love, we commit to Him through local church membership.

**Context is key!**

### Question #1 (Context)

*Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?*

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

### Question #2 (Context)

*Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?*

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

### Question #3

- a) What does it mean to be a formal member of a local church?
- b) What are some differences between membership in the local church and membership elsewhere?
- c) Why can't you separate a first love for Jesus from the priority of committing to His Church?
- d) How is formal church membership an expression of the gospel? Use examples from Scripture.

Membership must be our priority because...

### Point 1: It **DECLARES** the **VALUE** of the Church (Acts 2:42-47)

*Question: Membership says, "I love Jesus, I value this church and I commit to it." Will you?*

### Question #4

- a) **Rd Acts 2:42-47:** How did the early church display a first love for Jesus through their membership in the local church?
- b) How did these things show the value of Jesus and His church in their lives?
- c) Why is church membership a safeguard against consumerism in the local church?
- d) How does church membership fuel joyful and sacrificial commitment to the local church?
- e) What things are you tempted to declare of greater value than Christ's church? Why those? What is one step you can take this week to show a greater value for Christ's church (*ie-Membership class, serving, praying, giving, etc.*)?

Membership must be our priority because...

### Point 2: It **UPHOLDS** my **ACCOUNTABILITY** in the Church (Heb. 3:17, Matt. 18:15-18)

*Question: Membership says, "My leaders are accountable for me and I submit to them." Will you trust God's design?*

### Question #5

*Accountability for...*

- i) *Elders (Heb. 13:17)*
- a) **Rd Heb. 13:17:** How is local church membership God's means for holding church leaders accountable for their leadership?

- b) What does it mean to “*obey your leaders and submit to them*”? Who are you ultimately submitting to when you submit to them?
- c) What are some reasons that you may think it’s to your advantage to not submit to godly leadership? How do you think that will end up for you? For the church?
- d) Why is it so easy for us to grumble against and criticize the leaders Christ has put over His church?
- e) What are some things you could do even this week to encourage them in their work?
- f) Spend time in prayer for the leadership of Hope Ottawa (Elders, Staff and Ministry Leaders). Pray for an increasing reverence for the Lord, intimacy with Jesus, passionate love for the flock, protection for them and their families, and courageous faith in leading the church in the season ahead. Also, repent of areas where you have not submitted to them through your words, thoughts and actions as they follow Christ.

### Question #6

*Accountability for...*

*The Flock (Matthew 18:15-18)*

- a) **Rd Matt. 18:15-18:** Why is faithful church discipline an act of love towards that person and the church? Why is it essential for the health, protection and purity of the church? How about for you? For your family?
- b) What is the main goal of all faithful church discipline? How is this a picture of the gospel?
- c) How does formal church membership give true accountability for each member?

Membership must be our priority because...

**Point 3: It PROPELS the MISSION through the Church (Acts 6:1-7)**

*Question: Membership says, “The mission is the priority, so this church is my priority.” Is it yours?*

### Question #7

- a) **Rd Acts 6:1-7:** How would the 12 apostles know who the full number of disciples was in the Jerusalem church with a record of them?
- b) How do we know that these men were committed members in the church and could be trusted?
- c) Why is it imperative that church leaders are selected from church members?
- d) What happened to the multiplication of the church when the 7 men were chosen to address the issue in the church? How does church membership fuel the multiplication of the church?

### Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of **any of the various texts looked at...**

- a) ADORATION: Lord Jesus, You are the Head of the Church who \_\_\_\_\_ .
- b) CONFESSION: Lord Jesus, I repent of my lack of love and value for You and Your Church in \_\_\_\_\_ .
- c) THANKSGIVING: Lord Jesus, I thank you for the gift of Your Church that \_\_\_\_\_ .
- d) SUPPLICATION: Lord Jesus, I ask for: i) A Greater Value of Your Church in me ii) My joyful accountability in Your church iii) Multiplication of the mission through Your church

*Memory Verse:*

*“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”-Acts 2:42*