



CONVERSATION STARTER

In what areas of life do we make formal commitments, and why are they important? What would happen if we tried to live those parts of life without commitment?

DEEPER

A Biblical Expectation

1. Pastor Josh explained that some biblical practices aren't based on a direct command but on what theologians call "good and necessary consequences." [Think back to his example of women taking communion]
What are other examples of beliefs or practices in the Christian life that aren't directly commanded in Scripture but flow from biblical truth? How does this principle help us discern how to faithfully apply God's Word today?

Read 1 Peter 5:1-5, Hebrews 13:7 and 17, and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.

2. The good and necessary consequence that is derived from these biblical commands leads us to ask several questions regarding the elder-member relationship. [Reference the sermon manuscript for the list questions]
Why would it be difficult to obey the commands in these passages for those who aren't members of a local church?

The Benefits

3. Many people question the benefits of membership by asking, "If I get care as a non-member, why should I join?" What if we switched our focus from personal benefit to the benefit we provide to the rest of the church.
How does thinking about the benefits your membership provides *to others* change the way you view church membership? Can you think of ways your church membership impacts our wider church family?

The Responsibilities

Read Ephesians 4:11-16 and Ephesians 5:18-21

The pathway that leads us towards the spiritual maturity that Paul describes is summed up in our discipleship process of Worship, Connect, Service, and Go.

4. Gateway Church members prioritize weekly **worship**. How would you describe the priority you place on worshipping weekly with our church family?
5. Gateway Church members **connect** in a Life Group? If you're reading this, well... you're plugged into a Life Group. That's great! But just how involved and committed to your Life Group are you? How's your attendance? [*Stop and let everyone reflect on this*] How's your participation in the discussion and prayer times? If you haven't shared anything up to this point, what's keeping you from building up others in the group? [*Stop and reflect*] How are you caring for each other's needs?

6. Gateway Church members **serve** our church family. How do you currently serve the church, and are there some practical ways you could expand your service to others? Perhaps outside of Sunday mornings? [Note: this is not to be confused with Going. You'll talk about next]
7. Gateway Church members **go** and share the good news of Jesus. How are you personally carrying out this mission alongside your church family? Any recent mission trips? Serving with our local partners? Evangelizing to your family, friends, and neighbors?

Wrapping up

8. Did anything you haven't talked about yet from the sermon stick out to you? Was there anything that challenged you? Encouraged you? Caused you to have more questions?

NOTES

PRAYER PROMPT

As a group, thank God for the members of Gateway Church and the ways he is using each of them to build up the church. Ask God to reveal your next step in growing in your faith in the context of our church family.