Appendix 9
Benefits of Church Membership

1. Church membership identifies a person as a genuine believer.

   Ephesians 2:19: So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

   Romans 12:5: …so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

2. Church membership provides a spiritual family to support and encourage people in their walk with Christ.

   Galatians 6:1-2: Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

   Hebrews 10:24-25: Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

3. Church membership gives people a place to discover and use their gifts in ministry.

   1 Corinthians 12:4-5: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord.

4. Church membership places people under the spiritual protection of godly leaders.

   Hebrews 13:17: Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.

   Acts 20:28: So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders.

5. Church membership gives people the accountability they need to grow.

   Ephesians 5:21: And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

   Proverbs 27:17: As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

   James 5:16: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.