

# COURSE INTRODUCTION

## JUSTIFICATION

Most students of this course belong to the church of Christ as members. Many of them belong to the church as spiritual leaders. Since members and leaders may not have confidence in knowing what church membership includes, we believe a course on church membership has great value for the body of Christ. This course will give them Scriptural principles which will strengthen the fellowship of Christians in the organized local Christian congregation.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Students will learn biblical support for the idea of having church membership.
2. Students will learn biblical requirements for church members.
3. Students who lead in the church will receive advice concerning how to guide people into church membership.
4. Students will learn how church members can express their commitment to Christ by expressing commitment to the local church.
5. Students will learn how to pray for the church.
6. Students will learn about the responsibilities of church elders to the members.
7. Students will learn about the dangers of those who teach others not to belong to the church or who encourage others to leave the church.

## REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance (15%)**  
Students will attend at least 15 hours of class.
2. **Class Homework (15%)**  
Students will complete the homework at the end of each lesson.
3. **Reading (30%)**  
Students must read 300 pages for BA studies or 600 pages for MA studies. They must write a report on their reading. We recommend the following books for reading. However, the coordinator may need to approve other books instead, due to which books he finds available to students where they live. Each student will present in class a written report of one page per 100 pages read. Students should use the approved form for reading reports when they write their reading reports. Students can fulfill their reading assignments by reading from the following:
  - a. Adams, Jay. *Handbook of Church Discipline*. The Jay Adams Library (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1986). 104 pages.

- b. Calvin, John. *The Golden Book of the True Christian Life*. Trans. Henry Van Andel. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House Company, 1952). 80 pages. Available on Kindle.
- c. Leeman, Jonathan. *Church Membership: How the World Knows who Represents Jesus*. Building Healthy Churches. (Wheaton: Crossway, 2012). 115 pages. Available on Kindle
- d. *The Communion of Saints: Living in Fellowship with the People of God*. Ed. Philip Graham Rykan. (Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing, 2001). 176 pages.
- e. Hull, Bill & Robert E. Coleman. *The Disciple-Making Pastor: The Key to Building Healthy Christians in Today's Church*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007). 194 pages. Available on Kindle.

4. **Essay (20%)**

Bachelor's level students must write a 10-page essay. Master's level students must write a 15-page essay (In addition, include a title page, and bibliography). The project provides students an opportunity to add to the knowledge which they receive in this course. They can also learn more how to apply this knowledge to ministry in the church. The essay should follow this procedure:

- a. Chose a passage from the Bible which presents the member's responsibility of the church or the elder's responsibility to the church.
- b. Explain what the passage says.
- c. Explain what you or your church could do to apply this passage to church live better than you have so far.

5. **Final Exam (20%)**

Students will take a final exam.