

# 1. Church “Membership”

## A. An Important Distinction

## B. NT Words Translated “Member”

Greek Word	<i>Bouleutes</i>	<i>Sunsomos</i>	<i>Oikeios</i>	<i>Melos</i>
Definition				
Occurrence in NT				
ESV Translation				1) 2) 3) 4)
Usage			1) 2)	1) 2) 3) 4)

### **C. Principles Drawn from the Biblical Analogy**

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

### **D. Observations**

1)

2)

3)

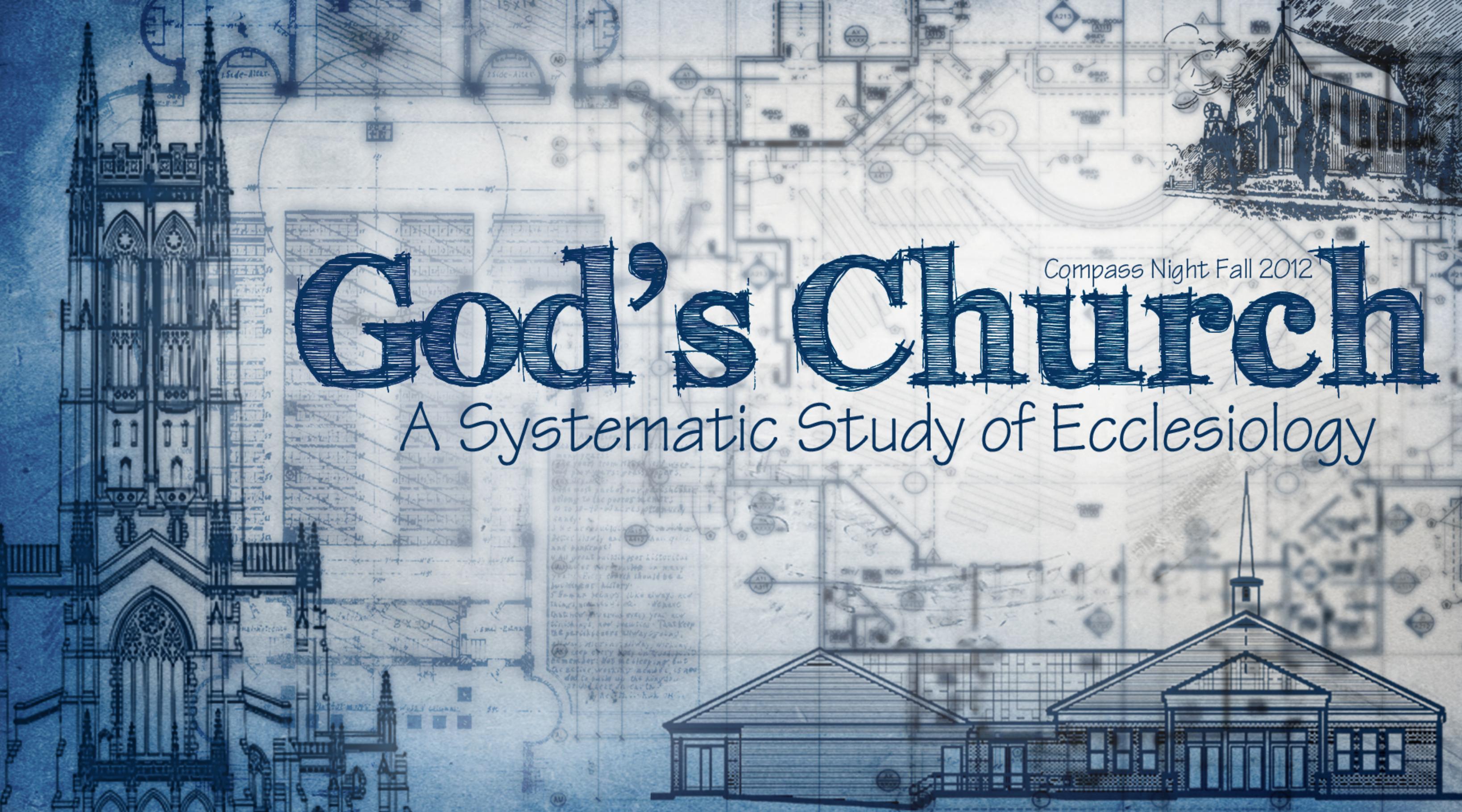
## **2. “Highly Committed Participants” (part 1)**

**A.**

**B.**

**C.**

**D.**

The background features a complex overlay of architectural drawings. On the left, a detailed Gothic-style church facade is shown in blue ink. The rest of the background is filled with various architectural floor plans and sections in a light, faded blue. In the top right corner, there is a small, detailed sketch of a church building with a steeple. The main title is written in a large, hand-drawn, blue ink font.

# God's Church

Compass Night Fall 2012

A Systematic Study of Ecclesiology

# **1. Church “Membership”**

## **A. An Important Distinction**

- Cultural “Membership”  
vs. Biblical “Membership”**

## **B. The Biblical Words for “Member”**

# **bouleuth,j** (*bouleutes*)

## **Definition**

From the word “to consult”

Officially participating in “the council”

**Occurrence in NT = 2 (Mk.15:43; Lk.23:50)**

## **ESV Translation**

“member of the council” (x2)

## **Usage**

(Literal) of councilman Joseph of Arimet.

**su,nswmoj** (*sunsomos*)

## Definition

With + Body or Together + Body

Occurrence in NT = 1 (**Eph.3:6**)

## ESV Translation

“members of the same body”

## Usage

(Metaphorical) of Gentiles made a part of  
God's program

# **oivkei/oj** (*oikeios*)

**Definition** = “of a house”

**Occurrence in NT** = 2

**ESV Translation**

“members of his/the household”

**Usage**

- 1) (**1Tim.5:8**) (Literal) of the same home
- 2) (**Eph.2:19**) (Metaphorical) of the same redeemed group

# **me,loj** (*melos*)

**Definition** = “limb” or “appendage”

**Occurrence in NT** = 34

## **ESV Translation**

1) “member(s)” = 28xs

2) “parts” = 2xs

3) “you” = 2xs

4) [untranslated] = 2xs (“member” impl.)

# me,loj (*melos*)

## Usage

1) (Literal) of an appendage of a body

- this meaning = 22xs

- e.g., **Mt.5:29-30**; **Jms.3:4-5**

# me,loj (*melos*)

## Usage

2) (Metaphorical) of Christian bodies  
belonging to Christ

- this meaning = 2xs

- **1Cor.6:15**

3) (Metaphorical) of bodies sexually  
connected to a prostitute (1x = **v.15**)

**me,loj** (*melos*)

## Usage

4) (Metaphorical) of Christians

belonging to the same fellowship

- this meaning = 9xs

- e.g., **1Cor.12:12-27**

**Eph.4:25; 5:28-32**

**Rom.12:5**

# 1. Church “Membership”

## C. Principles Drawn from the Analogy

- 1) All Christians are Inseparably Related to Christ (**1Cor.6:15**)
- 2) Christians Should be Content to Serve Differing Roles in the Church (**12:12**)
- 3) Every Role in the Church is Important (**12:22**)

# 1. Church “Membership”

## C. Principles Drawn from the Analogy

- 4) Christians Must Have Mutual Respect for Each Other (**12:26-27**)
- 5) Our Interconnectedness Should Keep us from Sinning Against Each Other (**Eph.4:25**)

# **1. Church “Membership”**

## **D. Observations**

- 1) “Formal Church Membership” cannot be based on the “Member Texts”**
- 2) “Biblical Church Membership” = Everyone Substantially Participating**
- 3) “Formal Church Membership” may be a Requested for Practical Reasons**

## 2. “Highly Committed Participants”

### A. Regenerate

- **Ephesians 2:18-22**

### B. Water Baptized Post-Conversion

- **Acts 2:37-41**

## 2. “Highly Committed Participants”

### C. Submitted to Their Pastors

- **Hebrews 13:17**
- **1 Thess. 5:11-13**
- **1 Timothy 5:19**
- **Acts 23:1-5**

### D. Regularly Attending

- **Hebrews 10:23-25**



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