

DIGDEEPER

June 19, 2016

The Right Attitude of Membership by BJ McMichael

James 4:1-4 ([Listen Online](#))

THE BIG IDEA

Membership in the local church is not a passive activity of consumption. We each have a role to play in the body of Christ. But before we talk about what church members do, we have to first address the attitude they should have. An inward, selfish attitude is of no use to Christ or the church. Instead, we must cultivate an attitude of unity, sacrifice, prayer, and joy.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

- What things do people tend to fight about most often? Why?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- In chapter one of *I Will*, Rainer points out that the threshold for what it means to be an active church member is dropping a lot lately. Why do you think many people are less committed to their church than they were just a few years ago?
- We talked about the need for unity in the church (Ephesians 4:1-6). What are the key things the church should be unified around? How do these things impact the disagreements and quarrels mentioned in James 4?
- What are the things you tend to complain about most often? Why?
- In what way has your negativity about your church affected those around you?
- Who do you know that exhibits the right kind of attitude about church membership? What things do they regularly do that display a different attitude?

GO DEEPER

- Thom Rainer, author of *I Will*, explains that [the church is healthiest when we're focused on others](#) instead of our own preferences and desires.
- Nathan Lino helps us see how [joyful church membership is a gospel issue](#), and he does it by looking at the book of Ephesians to help us understand the role the church plays in this world.
- Casey Lewis argues that [the one thing we should look for in a church](#) is its willingness to serve others even when that's the last thing our sinful nature wants.
- Here are [ten symptoms of a selfish church member](#). Read the list carefully and prayerfully consider what the presence of one in your life might say about the underlying attitude of your heart.

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Spend time praying earnestly for your church. Thank God for saving you and placing you into the church forever. Confess the ways you've been arrogant, selfish, prayerless, or joyless about your relationship with his bride. Ask him to make University Heights more like Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to be powerfully present in and through us. Ask God to show you who and how you can serve someone in our church this week.