

MY NOTES

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these “challenges” are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

Week 12

ACTS

Membership That
Accounts For Us

TODAY'S VERSES:

Acts 4:32-37

Romans 16:16

Acts 2:37-47

1 Timothy 5:3-16

Acts 6:1-6

Matthew 18:15-20

Hebrews 13:17

Romans 16:1-16

Ephesians 2:4-5,
12-16, 19-22

1 Corinthians 13

Romans 12:5

Hebrews 13:17

UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

BAPTISMS Next Sunday
at 1pm at 1371 Solomon
Road. Come Celebrate
and stay for lunch with a
Nacho Bar. If last name
begins with, please bring:

A-L: Cooked taco meat

M-R: Desserts

S-Z: Beans & Salsa

Serve Santa Maria

Saturday, April 16th,
8:30am - help serve
our City together.

connect@ourelement.org





So far in Acts:

A Story That
Enlightens Us

A Resurrection And
Ascension That Is
Promised To US

Guidance That
Leads Us

A Heritage That
Informs Us

Worship That
Reminds Us

Preaching That
Changes Us

Generosity That
Defines Us

Compassion That Is
Bigger Than Us

Truth That
Challenges Us

A Name That
Confronts Us

Community That
Encourages Us

Week 12 – Acts 4:32-37

Membership That Accounts For Us

This is Acts week 12 and we have been going through many paces of the early church in an effort to better focus ourselves on what the church should be today. There are identifiable markings of what the church should be that come out of the Bible, this week we will be talking about church membership.

Are you a member of any clubs?

Why did you choose those?

Membership of a club usually involves the question, “what do I get out of this?” We often find ourselves seeking to belong to a group that has the highest benefit to us and the smallest commitment. We bring this mindset into all areas of our lives; work, relationships, even the church. Many people use membership as an excuse, “well I don’t have to do this, I am a member, I am a V.I.P. I should be served.”

What benefits are you receiving by being part of a club?

Do you view the church as a club?

Why do you think church membership exists?

The Bible views church membership as a way to keep track of the congregation, identify those in need, provide discipline when people are in sin, and to help create accountability.

Romans 12:4-5 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

As a church, we are called a body, just like each part of the body serves a distinct purpose, the individuals in the church come together to form something greater than themselves. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The words of Romans 12:5 are what is known as “covenantal,” they are based out of God’s relationship with us; a covenant is very different than a contract. A contract, if it’s broken by one party is over and becomes void...if one party breaks a side of a covenant, it can still stay in effect.

God did not make a contract with us, He made a covenant (that’s a good thing because we break our covenant with God every day). God’s ongoing covenant with the church is always GRACE. The church is also supposed to be in covenant relationship with one another, but so often we treat our covenant with the legalism of a contract. “You hurt me? You didn’t understand me? We’re through.” We must understand that God calls us to covenant with each other just like we covenant with Him; as we covenant with Him we covenant with each other

What is the one of the hardest things you have gone through in a friendship?

What benefits are there to leaving a hard friendship?

What benefits are there to sticking it out and working through issues?

Read Acts 4:32-37

What is a member of the church?

A member is someone who tries to understand, own the vision, and live the mission of the church they are a part of. A member doesn’t see themselves as a recipient, but as a servant. It is someone who would give up their “rights” for responsibilities. When we come to a church service we should look to serve others rather than be served. We should ask, “God, who do you want me to minister to and love today?” We are to come with open eyes and hearts knowing that someone may need us, that God may put someone in our path.

When you attend a “church” function do you usually go in looking to serve or consume?

Do you know what your spiritual gifts are?

Are you using your gifts to serve others or yourself?