

# CHURCH ASSEMBLIES

Reading: Amos 3:3

**“Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?”**

## INTRODUCTION:

Even the smallest living thing, has individual parts which have to co-operate (with each other) to enable the organism to be active. (“An Irreducible Complexity” mouse trap)  
The “one another” (Hebrews 10:24) aspect of the New Covenant clearly indicates this.  
(Romans 12:10; 1 Corinthians 12:25)

## DISCUSSION:

What does Hebrews 10:25 mean? (choose between the following)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Saints should NOT assemble</li><li>2. The instruction was only applicable to the 1st century Christians</li><li>3. This verse does not belong in the New Testament</li></ol> |
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OR

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. This is a divine requirement (Galatians 5:25)</li><li>2. It enables us to be a body of Christ in a certain locality (1 Corinthians 12:27)</li><li>3. It depicts obedience to Jesus Christ our Savior (John 14:15)</li></ol> |
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This is what “membership withdrawal” means:

- a) Does NOT mean: withdrawal of fellowship” or “salvation”
- b) Means: “non participation” as a member of this congregation (Brixton)  
there are many other congregations (of Christ) of which you can become a member if that is what you desire (in order to be obedient to Christ’s instructions)
- c) However, you must become a member of a collectivity of saints (Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 12:14-18; 1 Corinthians 12:14-27;  
Luke 13:6-9 - destiny of the fig tree = “no fruit = no purpose. The axe is laid at the root of the tree, the end? = destruction : (Matthew 3:10)

Membership is a compound of 2 concepts viz. “member + ship”

“Member” indicates the relationship which exists or should exist between 2 or more things or persons.

The suffix (-ship) shows that the relation is dependent on the co-operation of individual units in a common endeavor (symbiotic relationship)

Remove the prefix and you are only left with a vessel without purpose or direction.

This is clearly taught by: (Ephesians 4:14) “...tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting”

Remove the suffix, and the individual components have no co-operative venture (or vessel) i.e. there will be no co-operative effort (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 “a threefold cord”)

## CONCLUSION:

“Withdrawal” of membership is designed to enable the individual saint, to assess their commitment to co-operation and the obtaining of a common goal.

Are you committed in this way to the common goal of this congregation? (that is the salvation in Christ Mark 16:15-16)