

There are many believers attending our Sunday services. They include both members and non-members of HCAC. These non-member believers attend our services regularly, join our church activities and participate in different ministries, but without any further action to become a member of HCAC.



A lot of believers do not understand why they should join a church and become a member. Even if I am not a member, I can still give offering, serve in ministries and attend Sunday services. So what is the difference between a member and a non-member?

Let us find out the reasons from the Bible. In 1 Peter 2:9-10, Apostle Peter describes that church is a place where we unite in Christ.

*9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

In these two verses, Peter mentions three characteristics of the church: a chosen people, a royal priesthood and a holy nation. Today I will talk about “a chosen people”. The word “chosen” reminds us that it is not us who have done anything to restore the relationship with God; rather it is God who proactively chose us. Therefore we are the “chosen people”.

Many social organisations or groups have been formed because their members are common in either culture, language or interests. However, believers are different. According to Peter, we come together because we have been chosen by God. We unite in God's love and grace and with Jesus' precious blood.

D.A. Carson, a theologian, says that a church is comprised of a group of people with a nature of hatred. We come together not because we are common in educational, racial, vocational, political or linguistic background. In fact, we should be hostile to one another. What has bound us together is the salvation of Jesus Christ, to whom we devote our lives. We are willing to love one another for the sake of Christ. Everyone is equal under the cross. When we realise that we have nothing special and superior to earn the grace of Jesus Christ, then we will not boast ourselves.

We come together because of Christ. Let us have a look on our congregation's background. We have different educational levels and financial capacities. Not only do we attend Sunday services together, we also have sincere and true fellowship with one another. Just because we love one another and unite in Christ, as we learnt from the Bible, we can be seen as the “chosen people”.

Do you know that there are 47 scriptures in the Bible which talk about things believers should do “one another”? All these scriptures remind us of what we should do in the big family of Christ. Let me share a few of these “do's” with you: accept one another, forgiving each other, confess sins each other, serve one another with love, be sympathetic, pray for each other etc. God's will is clear – we have to work together to build up the big family of God. As we have become God's children, we have to regard God's home (i.e. church) as our home. Brothers and sisters who have not yet join HCAC should consider to be a member of HCAC.