Contents

Introduction / 9 Abbreviations / 11

Part 1: General Questions about Membership and Discipline

- 1. Why Are Church Membership and Church Discipline Important? / 15
- 2. What Is a Church? / 21
- 3. What Is Church Membership? / 27
- 4. What Is Church Discipline? / 33

Part 2: General Questions about Church Membership

Section A: Theological Questions

- 5. How Does Church Membership Relate to the New Covenant? / 39
- 6. Is Church Membership Biblical? / 45
- 7. How Does Matthew 16 Speak Specifically to the Matter of Church Membership? / 51
- 8. How Has the Church Practiced Membership Throughout Its History? / 57
- 9. How Does Church Membership Relate to Baptism and the Lord's Supper? / 63

Section B: Ministry Questions

- 10. How Is Membership Related to Making Disciples? / 71
- 11. How Is Membership Helpful for the Leaders of the Church? / 77
- 12. What Is the Process of Church Membership? / 83
- 13. Does Membership Look the Same in Every Culture and Context? / 89

Section C: Practical Questions

- 14. Why Do Some Churches Not Believe in Church Membership? / 97
- 15. What Kind of Church Should Someone Join? / 103
- 16. Who Should Become a Member of a Church? / 109
- 17. At What Age Should Someone Be Admitted to Membership? / 115
- 18. When Should Someone Be Removed from Membership? / 121
- 19. What Are the Benefits of Being a Church Member? / 127
- 20. What Are the Responsibilities of Being a Church Member? / 133

Part 3: General Questions about Church Discipline

Section A: Theological Questions

- 21. What Does the OT Say About Church Discipline? / 141
- 22. What Does Matthew 18 Say About Church Discipline? / 149
- 23. What Does 1 Corinthians 5 Say About Church Discipline? / 155
- 24. Are There Other NT Passages That Speak About Church Discipline? / 161
- 25. How Has the Church Practiced Discipline Throughout Its History? / 167

Section B: Ministry Questions

- 26. How Is Discipline Related to Discipleship? / 175
- 27. Who Is in Charge of Administering Discipline? / 181
- 28. What Is the Process of Discipline, Restoration, and Forgiveness? / 187
- 29. How Does the Church Discipline One of Its Leaders? / 193
- 30. How Can the Practice of Church Discipline Be Introduced into the Church? / 199

Section C: Practical Questions

- 31. Why Do Some Churches Not Practice Church Discipline? / 207
- 32. What Is the Goal of Church Discipline?/ 213
- 33. What Is the Benefit of Discipline for the Person Under Discipline? / 217
- 34. What Is the Benefit of Discipline for the Church as a Whole? / 223
- 35. What Kind of Sins Require Church Discipline? / 229
- 36. Should a Believer Associate with Someone Under Church Discipline? / 233
- 37. What Should Be Done When Someone Under Discipline Repents? / 239
- 38. What Kind of Culture Does Biblical Discipline Produce in the Church? / 243

Part 4: Concluding Questions about Membership and Discipline

- 39. What Is the Significance of Church Membership and Discipline for Theology? / 251
- 40. What Is the Significance of Membership and Discipline for the Christian Life? / 259

Selected Bibliography / 263 Scripture Index / 267