

selves to be enrolled in earthly Church records. A candidate for membership in a Baptist Church professes to be born anew by the Holy Spirit, and as one who is already in the invisible Church, asks for membership in the local and visible Church. He narrates his christian experience, the local Church considers that experience, and if deemed satisfactory he is received by vote, as a candidate for baptism and Church fellowship. As every person is received into membership only after his baptism, baptism has been called the door into the Church. It is the first public act of the believer, and is his own voluntary act, never in New Testament times performed by proxy. To the one hundred and twenty brethren of Acts 1 : 15, we are told, "the Lord added to them day by day those that were being saved." Their relationship to the Church emphasised their previous relationship to Christ through faith.

It sometimes happens that a person who has been baptized, but for some reason has never united with a Church, or is not now a member of a Church, applies for membership. It is customary in such a case for the person to relate to the