

**THE CONDITION OF MEMBERSHIP  
IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH,  
VIEWED IN CONNEXION WITH  
THE CLASS-MEETING SYSTEM IN  
THE METHODIST BODY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649554287

The Condition of Membership in the Christian Church, Viewed in Connexion with the Class-Meeting System in the Methodist Body by T. Hughes

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**T. HUGHES**

**THE CONDITION OF MEMBERSHIP  
IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH,  
VIEWED IN CONNEXION WITH  
THE CLASS-MEETING SYSTEM IN  
THE METHODIST BODY**



THE CONDITION OF MEMBERSHIP

IN

The Christian Church,

VIEWED IN CONNEXION WITH THE CLASS-MEETING  
SYSTEM IN THE METHODIST BODY.

BY

T. HUGHES,

AUTHOR OF "THE HUMAN WILL, ITS FUNCTIONS AND FREEDOM;" "PRAYER AND DIVINE  
ORDER;" "THE IDEAL THEORY OF BERKELEY AND THE REAL WORLD."

LONDON:  
HODDER & STOUGHTON,  
27 PATERNOSTER ROW.

1868.

110. j. 197.

## PREFACE

---

WHILST it is safe and pleasing to write on a subject in a way the generality accept and approve of, it may be least of all needed, and of little good to correct opinion, direct thought, and improve and advance society. It often is the case, that the unwelcome and opposed by society generally is the most needed, and ultimately will exercise most influence, and produce the greatest results for good and happiness. It may be the book which is accepted without a demur, and pleases without a frown, may do nothing more than feed fancy and prejudice, or flatter selfishness and pride, or willingly or unwillingly cover the ugly with silk, or mask forces from sight and knowledge, which ultimately may destroy. It is always pleasing to a chief to have willing men to march under his banner and fight his foes; so is it always pleasing to society to fight its dislikes and defend its likes, and these are often mean and many;

and a host of willing hands ever ready to do it. The thing which is not pleasing is always safe and healthy; it leads the thought of society upon itself, and to the re-examination of its likes and dislikes; it opens a new channel of thought and activity, gives variety to life, and often saves society from ultimate misery and ruin.

Knowing as I do the deep-rooted prejudice which exists in a large number relative to the object-matter of this book, it would be a vain hope to please, or that my labour will be in the least acceptable either as to motive or truth. All I ask is, which in common with humanity at large I have a ground to ask for, a consideration of my views and arguments, as free as possible from all preconceived notions and habits, and test them by what ought to be, if divine order had its sway, and not by what exists in the conventional order of men. Let my views not be judged by an impulse, or condemned by a jury who decide by a second-hand evidence; let them stand or fall by their own merit or demerit, and be judged and dealt with the common fairness and justice which even supposed criminals are dealt with. Let it be conceded until proved otherwise, the bare possibility that my views may be right, and the opposite wrong.

The aim of the book is broader and more comprehen-

sive than may appear to a cursory reader and thinker ; it is not to oppose any individual or collective party, or a defence of a loved theory, or a revenge for any supposed wrong or insults received ; but a tribute to what the author considers and believes to be true and righteous in itself and relations. The intention and spirit of the book are the freeing of the Church and religion from human tests and trammels—the protection of the privileges and blessings of Christian people, as provided and given them by God, genuine and impartial—and liberalise and make more comprehensive the Methodist system for man in all times, and under all conditions, and in all the relations of his being : and if in any degree these great ends will be enhanced, something good will have been realised, and will bear its happy results in fruit of common and constant participation and possession.

T. H.

*July 20, 1868.*



The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be clearly documented, including the date, amount, and purpose of the transaction. This ensures transparency and allows for easy reconciliation of accounts.

Additionally, it highlights the need for regular audits to identify any discrepancies or errors. By conducting periodic reviews, organizations can catch mistakes early and prevent them from escalating into larger issues. This proactive approach is essential for maintaining the integrity of the financial data.

The document also touches upon the role of technology in modern accounting. It notes that while traditional methods were once the norm, the adoption of digital tools has significantly improved efficiency and accuracy. Automated systems can handle repetitive tasks, reducing the risk of human error and freeing up valuable resources for more strategic activities.

In conclusion, the document serves as a comprehensive guide for anyone involved in financial management. It provides practical advice on how to organize, record, and analyze financial information effectively. By following these guidelines, individuals and organizations can ensure that their financial records are both accurate and reliable, ultimately leading to better decision-making and financial stability.

# CONTENTS.

---

CHAPTER I.		PAGE
THE QUESTION ANTICIPATED, . . . . .		1
CHAPTER II.		
A STATEMENT OF THE QUESTION AT ISSUE, . . . . .		9
CHAPTER III.		
THE ARGUMENTS MADE USE OF IN FAVOUR OF THE CLASS-MEETING TEST OF MEMBERSHIP STATED AND ANSWERED, . . . . .		19
CHAPTER IV.		
THE INCONSISTENCY OF THE CLASS-MEETING CONDITION OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IN THE LIGHT OF OTHER USAGES ACKNOWLEDGED AND PRACTISED, . . . . .		56
CHAPTER V.		
THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF THE CLASS-MEETING CONDITION WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND LAWS OF NATURAL AND CHRISTIAN ORDER, . . . . .		64

	PAGE
CHAPTER VI.	
THE WRONG DONE IN MAKING THE CLASS-MEETING THE CONDITION OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, . . . . .	81
CHAPTER VII.	
THE COMMON FALLACIES OF THE CLASS-MEETING CONDITION, . . . . .	97
CHAPTER VIII.	
THE RIGHT PLACE AND USE OF THE CLASS-MEETING INSTITUTION, . . . . .	114
CHAPTER IX.	
THE LEGITIMATE AND NATURAL CONDITION OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH OF GOD, . . . . .	127