

MY RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CHURCH

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the responsibilities that we have as members of the congregation.
2. Acts 2:47 “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” The NKJV reads: “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”
 - a. When we obey the gospel the Lord adds us to the church
 - b. Church = called out of the world - group of God’s people
 - c. Individual congregation of the Lord’s people
3. As a member of this congregation I have responsibilities
 - a. There are some things required or expected of me
 - b. Responsibility has been defined as Opportunity + Ability
 - c. As a member I have the opportunity and the ability to do certain things and that equals responsibility.
4. What do you expect from your home congregation?
 - a. Truth to be preached and taught - by the preacher and all who teach
 - b. Good leadership - Scriptural organization of elders/deacons
 - c. Fellowship of the members - friendly, kind and helpful
 - d. A church that helps others - benevolence
 - e. A church that teaches the gospel to the lost
 - f. Members who are trying to live faithfully for God
5. What are my responsibilities to the congregation in helping to accomplish these things?

Discussion

I. ATTENDANCE

A. I need to be present at all the services

1. Heb. 10:25 & Acts 20:7, 28
2. The existence of any congregation depends upon the attendance of the members
3. What is your attendance record?
 - a. Do you only come on Sunday morning - never at night or Wednesday night?
 - b. But you go other places and do other things at night
 - c. Do you miss one or two weeks or more and never think anything about it.
4. What about when I have to be out of town?
 - a. Do I find a place to worship God?
 - b. Some have never attended a worship service at another congregation? Why?
 - c. Do I let someone in the congregation know that I am going to be gone?
 - d. Will anyone notice that I am not present?

B. When we move

1. Many times we have to make a move to a new community.
2. Man was moving with his family to a new community. A friend asked him where they planned to live. That depends on the congregation we select. ---- He was more concerned about a good church home than the house to eat or sleep in.
3. Many people are moving in our society today.
 - a. Sometimes when people move from their home congregation they go to a new community and they just start visiting around.
 - b. They drift from one congregation to another. They never identify with one congregation. They become a perpetual visitor or guest.

- c. They never place membership - they never do any work with the congregation - they just attend as a guest.
 - d. God didn't arrange any "honorary memberships" in the church. He wants us to be active working members.
- C. One of my responsibilities to the congregation is to be in attendance. But that is not all....

II. WE HAVE A FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- A. We don't want to be considered as a tight-wad or a skin flint.
 - 1. When we go out with our friends we want to pay our part of the bill
 - 2. We do not want to be a parasite !
- B. We have a financial responsibility to the church
 - 1. Commanded to give - 1 Cor. 16:1-2
 - 2. How many of the 52 weeks in the year do we give?
 - a. What about giving when we are sick or out of town?
 - b. Whether I am present or absent the financial obligations of the church still exist and have to be met.
 - c. If possible I try to leave my contribution with someone when I am going to be out of town. If not then I make it up when I return.
 - 3. If I expect the church to carry out the work that we want it to do then we must give our financial support to the church !

- C. But what if I do not agree with how the money is being spent?
1. I still have a responsibility to give as I have been prospered.
 2. If we have elders then they decide how the money is to be spent. Without elders we have the men who decide how the money is to be used.
 3. Those responsible for those decisions will be held accountable for how the money is used.
 4. But if I do not give then I am going to give an account to God for failing to meet my responsibility.
- D. Mal. 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."
1. These people had not been giving the way God had commanded. Instead of giving the best in their animal sacrifices they were offering sick and blind animals. Malachi says they were robbing God. Mal. 1:8
 2. When we do not give back to God as he has prospered us then we are also guilty of robbing God.
 3. We are to be stewards of all these earthly possessions. 1 Cor. 4:2 says "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."
 - a. Steward is a manager
 - b. We are to manage these material possessions faithfully.
 - c. One of the things required with our money and earthly possessions is to give back to God.
 - d. If we fail to do that then we are robbing God.

4. But notice Mal. 3:10 "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"
 - a. If they gave as they should then God would bless them?
 - b. That is still true today.
 - c. Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."
- E. We have a responsibility to attend and to give financially to the church. And we also have a responsibility in....

III. HELPING THE CHURCH GROW

- A. By being a good influence
 1. I want my congregation to be a good example in this community.
 2. Therefore I must live as Christians should
 3. Tit. 2:12 "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"
 4. Matt. 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
 - a. Avoid evil places and evil company
 - b. Use good language never filthy dirty or evil words

5. 1 Tim. 4:12 NKJV "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

B. By teaching the lost

1. The Great Commission - Mark 16:15-16 applies to all of us
2. I will set myself to the work of winning souls to Christ.
 - a. I will find someone to teach.
 - b. I will invite people to the church services.
 - c. I will bring friends with me to the church services and encourage them to become Christians.
 - d. Dan. 12:3 Pro. 11:30
3. I want the congregation to grow and multiply because that means lost souls are being saved.

C. I will be loyal to my home congregation

1. As long as the congregation is conducting a scriptural program of work I will help carry out the work.
2. I will give my influence and effort to the work set forth.
3. I am not going to talk bad about the congregation and complain about everything but will help to make it better.
4. I will be friendly and helpful and enthusiastic about the congregation and do everything I can to make the church stronger and better.

Conclusion

1. This congregation needs the help and co-operation of every member.
2. In an ideal bridge the load is supposed to be evenly distributed over the entire structure. For example when a train crosses the bridge, every important piece of metal bears its share of the strain. It was the failure to distribute the strain that accounted for a great bridge accident some years ago, that resulted in the death of a large number of people. –
3. --- Did you ever stop to think that the church is suffering from just such an uneven strain? If many members shirk their duties, it throws responsibility upon someone else already over-burdened. To be strong the church needs the cooperation of all its members.
4. The congregation needs the work of every member. And every member needs to be doing their part in the congregation.
5. What do I owe my home congregation?
 - a. Faithful, regular attendance at all the services
 - b. Financial support by giving every week as I have been prospered so the work of the church can be accomplished.
 - c. Help the church to grow by being a good example, by teaching the gospel to the lost and loyally supporting the efforts of this congregation.
6. Are you doing your Part ?
7. What if every member were like me in attendance and giving? Would the church be dead or alive ?