

The Responsibilities Of Encouraging Christians

You became a member of the Lord Jesus Christ's church when you were baptized into Christ. You became a member of the local congregation when you joined yourself to that group. As a member of the Body of Christ you accept certain obligations, you submit to His leadership revealed in His Word and you give yourself freely to the service of your Lord. Saints have agreed to function as a team, under overseers as servants (overseers are servants too), we become a Church in the local organized sense. Your presence and accessibility, present both a privilege and an obligation to all who would be faithful to Christ, the Church and individual members have distinctive roles to fulfill.

I Tim. 5:16- 16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed. You should not enter into the Church relationship without an understanding of the obligations and responsibilities that go with this relationship.

Team Responsibilities:

As a member of the Local Congregation you give up some independence to function collectively. The local Church must operate with a common mind. (**I Thess. 5:12-22**). It is like a football team, each player must act in keeping with the play that is called.

Mutual Assistance:

Sometimes members think their presence at the services and their contribution to the treasury is the whole of their relationship to the local work. To feel this way ignores one of the most vital reasons for the collective work.

Heb. 10:24-25

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
Encouraging is one of the basic purposes for assembling collective. We must learn to view the local church as a mutual encouragement society, brethren banded together to help each other get to heaven.

In the public worship we teach and admonish one another. **Col. 3:16**

We edify one another **I Cor. 14:14-17**

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

I Thess.5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Mutual assistance will go beyond the public worship.

Gal. 6:1 – 2

1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

How do we measure up in this aspect of fellowship? If we are falling short we are depriving others and yourself of help every Christian needs and has a right to expect. If I am discouraged or having problems am I solving these situations the way God wants me to or am I doing it my way?

Phil. 1:27- Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

Dave Richards