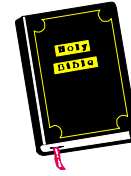


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

Some Responsibilities of Church Membership

I have yet to find a passage of scripture that supports the “member at large” ideology. By that I mean, a member apart from a local congregation. The Scripture teaches the value of individual Christians being recognized as part of a local, autonomous congregation of God’s people. While it’s true that all those who have obeyed Christ through penitent faith and baptism are members of the church of Christ, in a general sense, it is equally true that those same individuals should identify themselves with a local body of New Testament Christians.

This past week, I went through some old files that I had received from a “retired” preacher. I ran across a piece of paper that has turned yellow and brittle due to the heavy weight of age. Based on some of the other documents that I found in the same folder, I’m guessing this piece is at least fifty years old.

On this tattered, yellow piece of paper is an article that someone wrote about church membership. I would like to share it with you.

Every relationship in life involves some responsibility. Membership in the church of the Lord bestows upon us the highest and holiest privileges and blessings conceivable to men.

It also involves great responsibilities and serious obligations [1 Cor. 12:12]. A man takes pride in fulfilling his obligations. A Christian should be eager to fulfill all obligations that go with church membership.

Let us study some of them, at the same time examining ourselves to see if we are fulfilling them so as to be approved of the Lord.

Local membership:

The local congregation is the only unit of organization we can read of in the New Testament for carrying on the Lord’s work that is assigned to the church. For a Christian to be in full fellowship with the church, he must be associated with, and be a part of, and be amenable to a local congregation. The New Testament does not describe the status of “A member at large.” We find Paul always associating himself with a congregation of Christians (Acts 9:26-30; 13:1-3).

- Continued on page 3

DO WHAT GOD WANTS ... OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org South Carolina 10/3/2010

VOLUME 36, NUMBER 38 October 3, 2010

RECORDS 9/26/2010

SERMONS 10/3/2010

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 33
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 60
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 45
Wed 7 PM Bible Study: 32
CONTRIBUTION: \$1614

AM: Jerry Manning

THE CHRISTIAN’S INFLUENCE

PM: Jerry Manning

VOICES OF CALVARY - THE WORD FROM BELOW

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” - Hebrews 11:6

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” - James 2:16

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

The Bulletin
USPS-994-500
Periodicals Postage Paid
West Columbia, SC
Published Weekly By:

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Margaret Herring, Jean Godley, Amy Wintermute, Lamar Reeves, Nina Ruth Meadows** (Marcella Klieves' mother), **Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago** (Jerry's sister) and **Phyllis Johnson**.

Many of our sisters in Christ are seriously ill:

- **Margaret Herring** is fighting pneumonia.
- **Marilyn Brooks** is in the ECU at Richland Heart hospital, in a semi-comatose state.
- **Jean Boyd** is home, under hospice care, in peace. Keep her and the family in your prayers.
- We have many others that are ill: **Eddie Sheppard, Margaret Herring, Marilyn Brooks, Ron Banks, Deborah Stoyk, and Margie DeYoung**.
- Remember all these in your prayers. Write them a card, give them a call, let them know you're praying for them and see if they'd like a visit:
- **Brother Manning** has many Bible studies during the week, remember them in your prayers, thank God for the power of His Word and pray he would bless our efforts.

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." - 1 Peter 5:10

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **GOSPEL MEETING** at Windsor Lake with **Mickey Burleson**, 10/15-10/17.
- **Check the bulletin boards** for many other activities.
- **New Directories in foyer:** Encourage your brothers and sisters, for whom Christ died; Give a call to those you've not seen or had a chance to talk much with recently.
- **Building Cleanup** volunteers needed for October.
- **Youth Devo SATURDAYS 7 pm.**

"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked." - Psalms 97:10

SERVE GOD AND ... OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!

Here's what to study in order to be sure you are pleasing to God.

NT BOOKS (27):	1 Corinthians	2 Thessalonians	1 Peter
Matthew	2 Corinthians	1 Timothy	2 Peter
Mark	Galatians	2 Timothy	1 John
Luke	Ephesians	Titus	2 John
John	Philippians	Philemon	3 John
Acts	Colossians	Hebrews	Jude
Romans	1 Thessalonians	James	Revelation

Some Responsibilities of Church Membership - (Cont. from page 1)

Subjection to the elders:

The elders are to exercise oversight over the local congregation (1 Peter 5:1-5). We (members) are to "obey them that have the rule over [us]" and "they are to watch for [our] souls" (Heb. 13:17; 1 Tm. 5:17-19).

Joint participation or fellowship in the work of the local church:

Each member is to be ready unto every good work (Tit. 3:1-2). "Every joint supplieth" the needs of the church (Eph. 4:16). "Every tree shall be known by its fruit" (Luke 6:44). "Prove your own work" (Gal. 6:4-5).

Preserve the unity, peace and harmony of the body of Christ:

"I beseech you that there be no divisions among you" (1 Cor. 1:10). "Mark them which cause division" (Rm. 16:17-18). "Endeavoring (make some definite effort) to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

The church has a mission—the salvation of souls:

We must be united with Christ that we might bring forth fruit unto God (Romans 7:4). Branches that do not bring forth fruit will be cut off and cast into the fire (John 15:2).

The "Christian at large" is defeating the very purpose of the local congregation—the preaching of the Gospel to the saving of souls. He is assuming no responsibility; and, sometimes he may be shirking it.

The apostle Paul said that the things written down in the past were done so that we might learn (Romans 15:4). While I understand these words to be referring to the Old Testament Scripture, I do believe they teach a valuable principle. Great Christian soldiers of the past are still teaching us by what they have written. I for one am grateful that we can still learn from these men today.

—Neil Richey, Gospel Preacher, Augusta Road Church of Christ in Greenville, SC.

DO WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO! ... OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” - Romans 15:4

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” - 2 Timothy 2:15