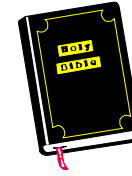


# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“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

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

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RECORDS 9/13/2009

SERMONS 9/20/2009

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 59  
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 85  
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 73  
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 73  
CONTRIBUTION: \$1983

AM: Jerry Manning

PM: Jerry Manning

HOPE

GETTING BACK TO THE TREE

“By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand,  
and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” - Romans 5:2

“For we are saved by hope.” Romans 8:24a

### 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

### EVANGELIST

Jerry Manning

Home Phone (803) 936-1502  
Cell Phone (803) 429-3738

E-Mail: jerry1Manning@yahoo.com

### BULLETIN EDITOR

Ed Kelleher

Office Phone (803) 796-8858  
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*  
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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Lamar Reeves, Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Michael and Megan Stoyk** are with Michael's mother who is in the hospital in Virginia with a recurrence of a very aggressive, malignant tumor. Pray for them all.
- Remember **Ruth Boggs, Margie DeYoung, Ron Banks, Carolyn Stidham** and the whole family in your prayers as they are having many trials.
- **Veta Winburn** was with us Sunday AM, but is still ailing some.
- **Thelma Brown** had a stroke last week. She should couldn't speak or move her right arm or leg, or open her right eye. They initially took her to Palmetto Richland, but she's doing better now and they've transferred her to:  
**RMC Room 4514, 3000 St. Matthews Road, Orangeburg, SC 29118**  
She still can't move her right arm or leg, but can now open her right eye and speak, though with difficulty. Her left side is fine. Keep her in your prayers.
- **Marilyn Brooks** was able to be with us Sunday AM but is in much pain.
- **Margaret Herring** is recovering from serious abdominal surgery at LMC.
- **Tommy White** was able to get out Sunday also, after recovering from pneumonia.
- **Brother Manning** has many Bible studies during the week, remember these, those that are recovering from loss, in your prayers.

**"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**

- **College age** are meeting regularly at the building, Thursdays 8 pm.
- **Transportation** needed for sisters **Betty Mathis, Jean Boyd** and **Marilyn Brooks**.
- **Pantry items** to bring to the church building. Remember, pop-tops are best.  
**9/20—Campbells Chunky Bean Ham Soup 9/27—Dole Mandarin Oranges**

## **“... PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS.” - Titus 2:14**

**Check your Work Team assignment—your participation is vital!**

**“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, ... For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: ” - 1 Cor 12:12-22**

## **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, Greenville, SC

## **Let Your Light Shine in 2009!**

Our **Gospel Meeting** is now history. Our thanks to: **Curtis Cates** for encouraging us all with God's word; To the people that helped; To those who invited people to come hear God's word; To those who helped prepare meals; To those who encouraged us with their attendance; To our visitors; To those who PRAYED for success.

Did you get a chance to invite all those that you wanted? I hope you did and that you took time to tell others of our meeting. When you consider that ETERNITY is long and JUDGEMENT is sure, are there ANY good excuses not to have? May the Lord bless you according to your efforts.

But now the real work begins—Bible Studies with those who visited and others who want to learn more of the Gospel. Let's resolve to do even **better next year!**

**"Who will render to every man according to his deeds:" - Romans 2:6**