

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

PM: Ed Kelleher

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

Have Hope?

“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

Are You Looking the Right Way?

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith;” - Hebrews 12:2

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

**JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY,
COME SEE!**

SERVICES

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

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays 3 pm
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

Other than the members
none at present time
Full time position open

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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

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Amy Strickland** continues to suffer and is not with us. **Jan Kelleher** is not well and was unable to make a planned trip to a Lady's Meeting in Alabama, where the ladies have **Jan** continually in their prayers.. Keep **Jason Parks** in your prayers as well.
- **Linda Floyd (nee Baroody)** has been diagnosed with a serious cancer. Surgery is planned for November. Keep her and the family in your prayers.
- **Jordan** and **Lauren Beard** will be home in St. George for Fall Break at USC.
- **Paula Kennedy's** cousin **Jeanette**, who was at death's door earlier in the year is now completely well, with “no evidence of disease” according to the doctors.
- **Margaret Herring** is recovering from a broken leg. **Pray for all these**, and our search for an **evangelist** to help us with the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

"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

- **Sign up** to provide food for the **College Age Class** each Wednesday.
- **MEN!** Sunday AM and PM please find **Jones Gamble** or whoever is putting together the assembly duty roster and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord's table, singing, etc.
- **INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them.

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones ” - Proverbs 3:5-8

It is important for **ALL** to attend **Sunday Morning bible study!** If you feel you're missing something, Bible class is a good place to go and find it.

“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

And not only for ourselves—the example we set others, in everything we **do**, or **don't do**, is important. The Lord was able to use Paul to encourage other brethren, even when he was in prison:

"And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." - Philippians 1:14

Be a good example, help others. Remember He is watching .. and knows!

“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.” - Prov 15:3

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

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called! (Eph 4:1)

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

“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