

# **Jesus Loves The Church**

- **Chapters 13 & 14**

# Responsibilities of Church Membership

- "Privileges... go hand in hand with responsibilities."
- How does this concept fit in with American democracy? Have we removed privileges from responsibility?
- Do we tend to think of church membership as a responsibility? Why or why not?

# 1st: Loyalty To The Church

- "Fidelity to the teachings of the church as far as they are loyal to the Word of God."
- So, what's so hard about this? Don't all Christians agree with teaching as long as it's Biblical? What's the real issue here?
- What are the extremes here?

# 2nd: Faithful Attendance to the Stated Meetings of the Church

- Acts 2:42 ff.
- Reasons people don't attend:
  - See it as unimportant
  - Other activities
  - Personal discouragement (chapter 14)
  - Disagreement with schedule set by pastors
  - Problems with others not settled or handled Biblically
  - Just don't feel like it

# 2nd: Faithful Attendance to the Stated Meetings of the Church

- Problems with missing services of the church:
  - Places feelings or other matters before God
  - Discourages the whole church
  - If for conflicts, removes the sanctifying opportunity to learn what it means to love one another. If it were easy, the unbelievers could do it.

# 2nd: Faithful Attendance to the Stated Meetings of the Church

## ➤ Blessings of attendance:

- Shows all who know you that you value God above all
- Creates bonds of friendship and love
- Encourages the church
- Refocuses our priorities
- Obedience to God's commands

# 3rd: Tithes and Offerings

## ➤ Tithes:

- Supports worship
- Commanded
- Set amount (10%)

## ➤ Offerings:

- Supports others/special
- As required
- As able to help

# 4th: Mutual Ministry

- If the church is the body of Christ gathered together, each member being given a different role, what picture is conjured by missing members?
- The "first line" of ministry often starts between members, rather than pastor to member
- Ephesians 4:11-16 ff.
- Titus 2



# 5th: Ministering to the Ministers

- Encouraging them by hearing and applying the Word - their labors are not in vain.
- Acknowledges that Christ ultimately gives gifts to the church
- Hebrews 13:7 - Listen to their teaching
- Hebrews 13:17 - They give account with joy

# 6th: Evangelism

- Evangelism is the responsibility of the church. As members of the church, we all add our gifts to the overall work of evangelism.
- What is the NT requirement? Are we all called to preach? To be Whitfields?:
  - Matthew 5:13-16; 1Peter 2:12
  - Colossians 4:5-6; 1Peter 3:15
  - 1Thess 4:11-12
  - 1Timothy 2:1-4