

Chapter 13 – What are the Responsibilities of Church Membership?

Chapter 14 – Is Church Attendance Really Important?

1. Loyalty to the church. - 1 Thessalonians 2:13
2. Attendance at a _____ church meetings. - Acts 2:42
3. Financial g_____. - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, Malachi 3:8-10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 8:9
4. M_____ ministry. - 1 Thessalonians 5:11-14.
5. Ministering to p_____ and e_____. - 1 Timothy 5:17-18
6. E_____ and witnessing. - Matthew 28:18-20.

Chapter 15 – What Is Required to be a Church Member?

Four Requirements and One Guiding Principle

Key Verse: Acts 2:41-42 – “41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

1. R_____ and conversion. Mark 1:15 - And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.
2. A personal c_____ of faith. Acts 8:37.
 - a. Observable testimony of having faith.
 - b. Verifiable declaration that they are regenerated.
3. A g_____ life. 2 Corinthians 5:17.
4. B_____. Acts 2:41.
5. Unreserved c_____ to the church you are joining. Acts 2:42.

“One reason that there is so much confusion and lack of power in many churches scattered throughout the world is because they have ceased to maintain purity in their assemblies by forsaking divinely-appointed requirements for membership.” - Blackburn, page 122.

13 things that are shown or happen when we don't fulfill the responsibility to attend church:

- 1) It reveals a cold heart and a lack of fervent love to Christ, who instituted visible churches. Revelation 2:4.
- 2) It shows disregard for the apostolic example and command of God's holy Word. Hebrews 10:25.
- 3) It robs you of blessing and help for the days ahead. Exodus 20:11.
- 4) It cheats your fellow Christians of blessing and help they would receive from your ministry to them. Hebrews 10:24.
- 5) It grieves the Holy Spirit who dwells in each believer individually and in the church as a whole. Ephesians 4:30.
- 6) It steals the joy of pastors who oversee you and minister the Word of God to you. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.
- 7) It can influence others to become unfaithful, lazy, indifferent, and selfish. 2 Corinthians 3:2-3.
- 8) It discourages brethren in the body with whom you are joined because you are not with them. They miss your person and presence. 1 Peter 4:8.
- 9) It is a poor testimony to the world of unbelievers. 1 John 3:13-14.
- 10) It demonstrates your lack of vision for the future of a particular church of which you are a member. Jeremiah 29:10-11.
- 11) It makes you a covenant-breaker in your commitment to God and to the church of which you are a member. 1689 London Baptist Confession, chapter 26, paragraph 13.
- 12) It is a dreadful step toward backsliding and apostasy. Hebrews 10:25.
- 13) It shows disrespect for the best and brightest day of the week, the Lord's Day, the day in which the Lord Jesus rose from the dead. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

Psalm 122:1, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."