

**THE MEMBER'S REQUIRED INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORK OF THE  
CHURCH**  
**Eph.4:8,11-16**  
**Ed Dye**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. By church we mean the local church; such as: Corinth; Philippi; Ephesus; W. Hepburn; 28<sup>th</sup> Ave.; 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.
2. By work we mean the duties of the local church – its divine obligations – as it functions in carrying out the will of God in the spiritual realm.
3. By required involvement we mean what God imposes upon or demands of those individuals, as individuals, each one of those, who compose the local church in the performance of its work.
4. By members we mean the baptized believers who have identified themselves with the local church for the purpose of work and worship, as God requires of each baptized believer. (Note: There is no other purpose for which to be identified with a local church!)
5. With this in mind, let us consider:

**II. DISCUSSION**

**A. HOW THE CONVERTED IN ANY GIVEN LOCALITY WERE  
ADDRESSED AND IDENTIFIED AFTER THEIR CONNVERSION AS  
A FUNCTIONING, WORKING, SPIRITUAL BODY IN CHRIST.**

1. The conversion of the Corinthians, Ac.18:8-10.
  - a. How addressed and identified as a functioning, spiritual body, in Christ, 1Cor.1:1,2; 12:27; 2Cor.1:1.
2. The conversion of those at Jerusalem, Ac.4:1-4; 6:1,7.
  - a. How addressed and identified as functioning, spiritual body in Christ, Ac. 5:11; 8:1; 11:22; 15:1-4.
3. The conversion of people at Antioch, Ac.11:19-21.
  - a. How addressed and identified as a functioning, spiritual body in Christ, Ac.11:22-26.
4. The conversion of the Philippians, Ac.16:11-15,25-34.
  - a. How addressed and identified as a functioning, spiritual body in Christ, Phil.1:1; 4:15,16.
5. The Thessalonians, Ac.17:1-4; 1Th.1:4-10.
  - a. How addressed and identified as a body of believers, 1Th.1:1; 2Th.1:1.

6. The Ephesians, Ac.19:1-6,17,18,20.
  - a. How identified as a body of believers, Rev.2:1.
7. Note: There were no “floaters”, no roving, wandering or rambling members, foot-loose and free members, with their membership in their “hind-pocket”. All baptized believers were then, and are to be now, identified with and become members of local churches for the purpose of work and worship. Cf. Ac.9:26; 18:24-27.
8. Note also: There is no other functioning, working body either larger than or smaller than or other than the local church authorized by God through which believers act to do any part of the work of local churches.

## **B. WHAT WORK IS REQUIRED OF THE LOCAL CHURCH?**

1. Evangelism, the work of preaching the gospel to save the lost of the world, Mk.16:15,16; 2Cor.11:8; Phil.1:3-5; 4:15,16.
  - a. Its importance is obvious, is it not?
  - b. The world of lost sinners makes it obvious!
2. Edification, the work of teaching, edifying, establishing, perfecting, or bringing the converted, the members of the local church, to spiritual maturity the faith in order for them to be able to do their work as members of the local church, Mt.28:19,20 (emp.v.20); Ac.11:22-26; Ac.14:21,22; 20:28-32; Rom.1:11; Eph.4:8,11-16; 1Th.5:11-14,21,22.
  - a. Its importance indicated by: 1Cor.3:1-3; 4:6; 2Cor.13:5; 2Tim.2:15; Heb.2:1-3; 5:12-14; 1Pet.2:2; 2Pet.3:17,18; 1:2,3; Jude 20,21.
  - b. All too many members either do not know, having not been edified enough to know, or fail to properly recognize the importance of this work of the local church.
  - c. While some members completely ignore and willfully neglect this work of the local church. See Heb.2:1-3
3. The work of benevolence, providing for the physical necessities, or life’s sustenance, of needy saints, Ac.11:27-30; 1Cor.16:1; 2Cor.8; 2Cor.9; Heb.6:10.

## **C. WHAT RESPONSIBILITY DO THE MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH HAVE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE WORK OF THE CHURCH?**

1. Examples in the work of evangelism, teaching us how members are to recognize their duty in this work: Ac.8:1,4; 11:19-21; 18:24-26; Rom.1:8.2Tim.2:1,2.
2. Examples in the work of edification, teaching us how members are to recognize their duty in this work: Eph.4:8,11-16; 1Th.5:11; Tit.2:1-8; Heb.5:12-14.
3. Examples in the work of benevolence: Ac.11:27-30; 1Cor.16:1,2; Heb.6:10.

**C. HAS ANY OTHER BODY, OR ANY OTHER GROUP OF PEOPLE, EITHER AS A BODY, OR AS INDIVIDUALS, BEEN DIVINELY AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM ANY PART OF THIS WORK OF THE LOCAL CHURCH, OR DIVINELY CHARGED WITH THIS RESPONSIBILITY?**

1. If so, where is the book, chapter and verse?
2. If we don't do it, who else can do it to God's glory?
3. If we don't do it, does God hold us responsible for our failure? Our neglect? How can we deny that he does?
4. If I, as an individual member, don't become involved whole-heartedly in what is divinely required of me in the work of the local church of which I am a member, does God hold me responsible for my failure to do so? For my neglect? How can I deny that he does?
5. But how can I be whole-heartedly involved if I don't give as prospered to support the work, or if I attend perhaps only one out of every three assemblies of the church for worship and edification? Or when I have not matured spiritually enough to be able to teach others after I have been a Christian long enough that I should be able to do so?
6. When you join a civic club or organization, are you expected to support its work? Attend its meeting? Or just have your name on the roll book and show up when you want to, and still expect to be a member in good standing, with all the benefits attached thereto?
7. Why is it different in the Lord's church? Or, is it different??

**III. CONCLUSION**

1. Mt.7:21-23; Lk.6:46; Heb.5:8,9; Rev.22:14; 3:14-19; 3:1-4.