

The Work of the Church

Introduction:

- A. At a “Gymnastics for Christ Youth Rally” in Beebe, Arkansas the “evangelist/gymnast” tumbled down the aisle as a part of his sermon.
- B. The church must be diligently at work. - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3
- C. But it must be diligently doing God's work, not man's. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- D. What is the scriptural work of the local church?

I. Background Principles:

- A. There is a New Testament pattern for the church which we must not violate. - 2 Timothy 1:13
- B. Individual Christians may do many things the local church cannot. - 1 Timothy 5:16
- C. The work of the local church reflects the nature of the relationship. - Ephesians 1:3,22-23

III. What activities is the local church authorized to engage in?

- A. evangelism - 1 Timothy 3:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8
- B. edification - Ephesians 4:12-16
- C. relief of needy saints - Acts 4:34-35

IV. The church must not engage in work unauthorized by the New Testament. - 2 John 9; 2 Samuel 6:1-7

- A. general benevolence (glorified Salvation Army) - Romans 14:17; John 6:26-27
- B. social and recreational activities (glorified YMCA) - Romans 8:5-8
- C. politics (glorified political party) - John 18:36
- D. secular education (glorified school) - 1 Timothy 3:14-15; John 17:17

Conclusion:

- A. What kind of congregation do you want to be a member of:
 - 1. a nice, comfortable church that does little and expects little of you?
 - 2. a “live-wire” church that engages in all sorts of fun activities?
 - 3. a faithful church that diligently does the Lord's work and expects you to pull your share of the load?
- B. Your choice reflects what you want to be. - 1 Corinthians 15:58
- C. Be zealous in the Lord's work and be a member of a local church that diligently does what He directs and nothing more.