

Responsibilities to the Local Church

Introduction:

- A. A couple in Northwest Arkansas who floated from congregation to congregation, never becoming members of a local church and never recognizing any responsibility to a local church.
- B. Many Christians, although hopefully not this unfaithful, fail to realize their responsibilities to the local church.
- C. What are the responsibilities of a Christian to the congregation of which he is a member?

I. The Importance of Membership in a Local Congregation

- A. The only functioning unit of the church is the local congregation. - 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Timothy 5:16
- B. All Christians are to join a local congregation (idea of “free-floating” members is unknown to the New Testament). - Acts 2:44-46
- C. All the members of a local congregation have a peculiar responsibility to it to fully support its work (not to be discharged in any other way).
 - 1. based on **MUTUAL AGREEMENT** to work together - Acts 9:26-28
 - 2. based on **MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES** to one another - Romans 12:4-8 (Each of us has the same amount of responsibility to do his own part.)
 - 3. based on **MUTUAL LOVE** for one another. - Romans 12:9-10
 - 4. based on **MUTUAL NEED** for one another - Ephesians 4:16

II. The Importance of Each Member

- A. Each member of the congregation has his own function to perform. - 1 Corinthians 12:14-19
- B. Each member is important. - 1 Corinthians 12:20-24
- C. Each member should have the same care for one another. - 1 Corinthians 12:25-27

III. The Responsibilities of Each Member

- A. **ASSEMBLE** faithfully with the saints - Hebrews 10:24-25
- B. **GIVE** liberally to help the church discharge its work - 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
- C. **FULLY SUPPORT** all scriptural functions of the church - James 4:17
- D. Diligently do whatever **WORK** he can do - Romans 12:4-8
- E. Demonstrate **LOVE** and concern for each other - Romans 12:9-10
- F. **PRAY** for one another. - James 5:16

Conclusion:

- A. Each member of the congregation must fulfill his obligations for the local congregation to be successful in doing its work. - 1 Corinthians 12:14
- B. Are you doing your share? - Romans 12:11