

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

Some Responsibilities of Church Membership

I have yet to find a passage of scripture that supports the “member at large” ideology. By that I mean, a member apart from a local congregation. The Scripture teaches the value of individual Christians being recognized as part of a local, autonomous congregation of God’s people. While it’s true that all those who have obeyed Christ through penitent faith and baptism are members of the church of Christ, in a general sense, it is equally true that those same individuals should identify themselves with a local body of New Testament Christians.

This past week, I went through some old files that I had received from a “retired” preacher. I ran across a piece of paper that has turned yellow and brittle due to the heavy weight of age. Based on some of the other documents that I found in the same folder, I’m guessing this piece is at least fifty years old.

On this tattered, yellow piece of paper is an article that someone wrote about church membership. I would like to share it with you.

Every relationship in life involves some responsibility. Membership in the church of the Lord bestows upon us the highest and holiest privileges and blessings conceivable to men.

It also involves great responsibilities and serious obligations [1 Cor. 12:12]. A man takes pride in fulfilling his obligations. A Christian should be eager to fulfill all obligations that go with church membership.

Let us study some of them, at the same time examining ourselves to see if we are fulfilling them so as to be approved of the Lord.

Local membership:

The local congregation is the only unit of organization we can read of in the New Testament for carrying on the Lord’s work that is assigned to the church. For a Christian to be in full fellowship with the church, he must be associated with, and be a part of, and be amenable to a local congregation. The New Testament does not describe the status of “A member at large.” We find Paul always associating himself with a congregation of Christians (Acts 9:26-30; 13:1-3).

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IN THE BIBLE WE’LL DELVE IN 2012

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 38, NUMBER 37 September 30, 2012

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: HARVEY ALLEN

PM: HARVEY ALLEN

JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” - Hebrews 11:6

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” - James 2:16

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

To be announced

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier.
- **Remember in prayer:** Jones Gamble and the family after the passing of his father; Anna Porter who is at home; Mickey Sharpe, Judy Walker’s cousin who had major surgery at LMC; Roderick Gray, Dorothy’s husband who has started a new job that requires considerable traveling; Ron Grimley in California; Dorothy Williams, friend of Tommy White’s.
- Also, K.C. Dunbaker requests prayers for Matt Brophy’s (a fellow coach) wife who is have major breast cancer surgery; and Skylar Tieben who is being treated for migraine seizures and hopes to be back to school—and soccer— soon (Oct 10).
- Gail Allen is doing better after surgery. She goes back to the doctor for further evaluation next Wed. She’s hoping she then will be able to go back to work.
- Keep all these, and **the church here**, in your prayers. Our thanks and gratitude to those who watch, and work and pray for the church here.

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." - 1 Peter 5:10

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Our thanks to **Wallace Beasley** who preached for us last Sunday, and to his family that accompanied him.
- **Bible Study at Church Building, are postponed until Saturday Oct 13.** Otherwise, most Saturdays at 3 pm, all are invited and please invite visitors to come! It’s a good way for people to learn more of us. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong’s Concordances.
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors.** Marshall Mancuso had had a bunch of nice cards printed, and Jones Gamble faithfully gets visitor cards posted with addresses. So help out yourself! Send a card, invite people to visit, then send more cards! Postage for a post card is \$.32, Send 3 for a dollar and keep the change!
- **Bible Bowl**—February 23, 2013—Book of John.

"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked." - Psalms 97:10

IN THE BIBLE WE’LL DELVE IN 2012

**“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord,
shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;**

but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” - Matthew 7:21

Some Responsibilities of Church Membership - (Cont. from page 1)

Subjection to the elders:

The elders are to exercise oversight over the local congregation (1 Peter 5:1-5). We (members) are to “obey them that have the rule over [us]” and “they are to watch for [our] souls” (Heb. 13:17; 1 Tm. 5:17-19).

Joint participation or fellowship in the work of the local church:

Each member is to be ready unto every good work (Tit. 3:1-2). “Every joint supplieth” the needs of the church (Eph. 4:16). “Every tree shall be known by its fruit” (Luke 6:44). “Prove your own work” (Gal. 6:4-5).

Preserve the unity, peace and harmony of the body of Christ:

“I beseech you that there be no divisions among you” (1 Cor. 1:10). “Mark them which cause division” (Rm. 16:17-18). “Endeavoring (make some definite effort) to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3).

The church has a mission—the salvation of souls:

We must be united with Christ that we might bring forth fruit unto God (Romans 7:4). Branches that do not bring forth fruit will be cut off and cast into the fire (John 15:2).

The “Christian at large” is defeating the very purpose of the local congregation—the preaching of the Gospel to the saving of souls. He is assuming no responsibility; and, sometimes he may be shirking it.

The apostle Paul said that the things written down in the past were done so that we might learn (Romans 15:4). While I understand these words to be referring to the Old Testament Scripture, I do believe they teach a valuable principle. Great Christian soldiers of the past are still teaching us by what they have written. I for one am grateful that we can still learn from these men today.

—Neil Richey, Gospel Preacher, Augusta Road Church of Christ in Greenville, SC.

Genesis	1 Kings	Ecclesiastes	Obadiah
Exodus	2 Kings	Song of Solomon	Jonah
Leviticus	1 Chronicles	Isaiah	Micah
Numbers	2 Chronicles	Jeremiah	Nahum
Deuteronomy	Ezra	Lamentations	Habakkuk
Joshua	Nehemiah	Ezekiel	Zephaniah
Judges	Esther	Daniel	Haggai
Ruth	Job	Hosea	Zechariah
1 Samuel	Psalms	Joel	Malachi
2 Samuel	Proverbs	Amos	