

Practical Observations On Being Part Of The Body Of Christ Part V

Introduction: Meaningful involvement in the “Church”, the Body of Christ, is an indispensable part of effective Christian living . . .

- For the individual;
- For the family!

-- The Five Biblical Priorities Life.

(How to live wisely and make wise decisions!)

1. “**Jesus Christ**”: Matthew 6:33.
2. “**Marriage Partner**”: Husband→ Eph. 5:25; Wife→ Eph. 5:22.
3. “**Children**”: Ephesians 6:4.
4. “**Church**” – the **Body of Christ**: Hebrews 10:24-25.
5. “**Work**”: Colossians 3:17, 23-24.

-- The Biblical Priorities for An Unmarried Young Person.

1. “**Jesus Christ**”: Matthew 6:33.
2. “**Parents**”: Ephesians 6:1-3.
3. “**Church**” – the **Body of Christ**: Hebrews 10:24-25.
4. “**Work**” / “**School**”: Colossians 3:17, 23-24.

Warning: A Christian suffers heavy consequences when these priorities are not in place!

a. He/She will have wrong priorities!

--A “false” god will rule/control life.

b. He/She will have “blind spots” → make poor decisions!

-- Pontius Pilate did not value his wife’s opinion, Matt. 27:19.

c. He/She will allow spiritual deception into the family!

--Note: “What I love, I pass on to my children to be loved by them!”

A. What Is The “Church”?

1. It is a “Promise” of Jesus Christ, Matt. 16:18.
2. It is a “Prophecy” of the Old Testament, Gen. 12:1-3.
3. It is New Revelation through the Apostle Paul, Eph. 3:1-12.
4. It is a New Dispensation, I Cor 9:17; Eph 1:10,3:2; Col 1:25.
5. It is the “Called - Out” Ones, Acts 9:31; II Cor. 5:14.
6. It is the “Body of Christ”, I Cor. 12:12-13, 27.
7. It is the “Bride of Christ”, John. 14:1-3; Rev. 19:7.

B. What Is The Believer’s Relationship With The Church?

1. Every Christian **IS** a “Member” of Christ’s Body – the “Universal” Church!
 - a. We were placed “in” Christ by the Holy Spirit, I Cor. 12:13.
 - b. This is the “**Universal**” Church, Eph. 1:18-23; 5:23-33.
--Note: The “Universal Church” is made up of all Believers who have been placed “in Christ” from its beginning (Day of Pentecost, Acts 2) until the “Rapture” of the Church at the end of this Dispensation (Age), I Thess. 4:13-18.
2. Every Christian **SHOULD BE** a Member of a “**Local**” Body (“Assembly”) of Believers.
 - a. We are instructed to “Assemble” together, Heb. 10:24-25.
 - b. We are instructed to be under “Oversight (watch-care)”, I Tim. 3:1-7,15; Titus 1:5-9.
--Note: The “Local” Church is a group of “Believers” who assemble together under the Biblical authority of elected “Elders” and “Deacons” and observe the N.T. ordinances of Baptism and the Lord’s Table.

C. What is “Attitude” of this Relationship?

1. “Honor” (Respect), I Tim. 5:17.
 - a. “Elders” = presbuteros = An “Elder”; a person of “Maturity”.
 - b. “Double honor” → “Work hard at preaching and teaching.”
2. “Love” (Appreciation), I Thess. 5:12-13.
 - a. “Appreciate those who diligently labor among you”
 - b. “Those who have Charge over you in the Lord”
 - c. “And give you instruction”
 - d. “Esteem them very high in Love because of their work.”

Note: Failure to hold these attitudes toward the Local Church and its leadership will bring serious damage within the family!
--Children will often take parents’ “negative” attitude one step further!

D. What are the “Responsibilities” of this Relationship?

1. “Submission” → to Leadership, Heb. 13:17.
 - a. A Command → “obey” / “submit”.
 - b. A Reason → “They keep watch over your souls”.
 - c. A Safe-guard → “They will give an account” to Jesus Christ.
 - d. A Warning → Rejection brings “grief”; no “profit”.
2. “Support” (Personal) → of Leadership, I Tim. 5:19-20.
 - a. A Fact of Church life: “Accusations” will come!
 - b. A Command: “Do not receive” → “Accusations”!
--Note: The “power” of a lie or rumor!
 - c. A Responsibility: “Substantiation” – find the truth!
--Key: Multiple “Witnesses” – talk to the “right” people!
3. “Support” (Financial) → of Local Body.
 - a. “Grace-giving” = Give as God “provides”, I Cor. 16:1-2.
 - b. “Grace-giving” = Give as God “leads”, II Cor. 9:6-8.
4. “Ministry” to / through the Body of Christ.
 - a. God’s Eternal Plan: Eph. 2:10.
“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”
 - b. God’s Earthly Design: Eph. 4:11-16.
“And He gave . . . pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the Body of Christ . . . being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies . . .”

E. What are the “_____” of this Relationship?

1. “_____”: **Colossians 2:7.**
“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”

“_____” → “_____” → “_____”
2. “_____”: **Hebrews 13:17.**
“Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

3. “ _____ ”: II Timothy 4:2-4.

“Preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.”

--“myths” = muthos = “a tale or fable”; “mythology”

“That which is fabricated by the mind and set over against the real and true. There may be much ‘logic’ and reasoning in a myth. In the N.T., the word ‘myth’ is used of a ‘lying fable’ with all its falsehood and all its pretenses to be what it is not . . . Although logos and muthos begin together with the thought, intelligence, and mind, they part ranks since the first ends in the ‘Kingdom of Light’ and the second in the kingdom of darkness and lies.” --Spiros Zodhiates

F. What are the Causes of “ _____ ” Relationship?

1. “ _____ ”:

--“I am more _____.”

--“I _____ more than those leaders.”

2. “ _____ ”:

--“I don’t _____ God can _____ those men to give me _____ or _____.”

3. “ _____ ”:

--“Those leaders _____ me in the past.”

--“I _____ what they did to a _____.”

G. What are the “ _____ ” for Failure?

1. **Hindered** _____;

2. **Lack of** _____;

3. **Poor** _____;

4. **Wrong** _____;

5. **No** _____;

6. _____ **Time** (_____);

7. _____ **To** _____.