



Membership in the Local Church

Prepared

By

Robert C. Archer



The local church is to provide

- **Opportunities**
 - To worship (1 Cor. 14:23)
 - To learn (Acts 20:7)
 - To grow (Eph. 4:11-14)
 - To work (Rom. 12:4-8)
- **Correction (1 Cor. 5:1-7)**



Our responsibility to the local church

- Be a member (Acts 9:23-30)
- Make use of the opportunities
 - To worship (1 Cor. 14:23)
 - To learn (Acts 20:7)
 - To grow (Eph. 4:11-14)
 - To work (Rom. 12:4-8)
- Accept correction



Our responsibility to the local church

- **Accept correction**
 - **Don't be defensive**
 - **Don't attack "the messenger"**
 - **Do self-examination**



Our responsibility to the local church

- **Live in peace**
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:13**
 - … **Be at peace among yourselves.**

Things that destroy peace

- **Gossip**

- **Ephesians 4:29**

- ²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.



Before you repeat, ask

- Is it true?
- Will it build up?
- Will it impart grace?

Things that destroy peace

- Harsh criticism

- Matthew 7:1-2

- ¹ “Judge not, that you be not judged.

- ² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you....”

Things that destroy peace

- **Pressing opinions (Rom. 14)**
 - **Romans 14:4 (NKJV)**

⁴ Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.
 - **Romans 14:10 (NKJV)**

¹⁰ But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Things that destroy peace

- Ignoring the spiritual progress of others
 - **1 Corinthians 8:1-13**
...¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Things that destroy peace

- **Selfishness**

- **Philippians 2:3-4 (NKJV)**

- ³ Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*

- ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

Our responsibility to the local church

- **Support the work - Financially**

- **1 Corinthians 16:2**

- ² On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.*

Support the work

- **With Prayer**

- **1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (NKJV)**

- ² We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,
 - ³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

Support the work

- **With Work (Rom. 12:4-8)**

- **Romans 12:4-8**

⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

⁵ so we, *being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*

⁶ *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;*

⁷ *or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;*

⁸ *he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*