

### WHAT I OWE TO THE CARTERSVILLE CONGREGATION

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. To the church of my Lord in every locality, I am under solemn obligation to the extent of my ability, but unto this congregation I am under special obligation.
- B. What do I owe to the Cartersville congregation?

#### DISCUSSION

##### I. I OWE HER THE EXAMPLE OF A GOOD LIFE

- A. I want this congregation to radiate to wholesome influence in the community.
- B. Therefore, I owe it the example of a good life.
- C. TS 2:12 – The grace of God - instructing us that having denied **ungodliness and worldly desires** that I am to live:
  1. Soberly – Strong’s #4996 σωφρόνως [*sophronos* /so-fron-occe/] adverb; “1 with sound mind, soberly, temperately, discreetly.”
  2. Righteously –Strong’s #1346 δικαίως [*dikaivos* /dik-ah-yoce/] adverb; “1 just, agreeably to right. 2 properly, as is right. 3 uprightly, agreeable to the law of rectitude.”
  3. Godly - 2153 εὐσεβῶς [*eusebos* /yoo-seb-occe/] adverb; “1 piously, godly.”

##### II. TO HER VISITORS I WANT THEM TO

- A. To feel at home – this is God’s family – EP 3:15.
- B. To learn to love us – love the brotherhood, one another – 1 PE 2:17; 1:22.
- C. And to return often – 1 TH 3:6.
- D. They are our guests – I must treat them accordingly. I owe it to them and to the church to show myself friendly. PR 18:24.
- E. I must not stand back and wait for others to greet them; this I must do. HE 13:2.

##### III. TO HER ELDERS AND DEACONS

- A. No congregation can make progress without faithful and efficient leaders. To a certain extent, the members of the church make or break their leaders.
- B. To the end that our elders and deacons may be strong and more efficient, I must give them my support.
- C. I must pray for them as long as they are true men.
- D. I must not embarrass them in their work. 1 TI 5:19. (Applies to the work of an elder it applies to the deacon.

##### IV. TO GIVE TO HER AS I HAVE BEEN PROSPERED

- A. This congregation has financial obligations which are due at regular intervals. Whether I give or do not give, these obligations must be paid.
- B. Though circumstances may force me to be absent at times, my contributions should find their way to the treasury of the church. 1 CO 16:1-2.

##### V. TO ATTEND HER ASSEMBLIES

- A. The very existence of this congregation depends upon the attendance of its members. The attendance is the life of the church. For this reason I attend all of the services.
- B. For all that I have, I would not have it said that this congregation perished because I would not attend the services. HE 10:25.

##### VI. TO HELP HER GROW

- A. I want this congregation to grow, spiritually and numerically. 1 PE 2:1-2; 2 PE 3:18; 2 TI 2:2.
- B. Therefore, I must set myself to the noble work of winning souls for the Christ.
- C. This I can do by preaching, teaching, and persuading; this I can do by persistent effort; this I can do by bringing others to our services.

VII. I OWE HER MY HEART, THE WARMTH OF MY LIFE, AND I MUST FORGIVE AND FORGET

- A. This congregation cannot thrive in a frigid atmosphere. I must not by my carelessness allow the church to become a place where hearts are chilled.
- B. I must make it a place where hearts are warmed.
- C. Therefore, I owe it my heart, the warmth of my life, and I must forgive and forget.
- D. EP 4:32.

CONCLUSION

- A. THEREFORE,
- B. EP 4:16.