

“Helping the Local Congregation”

Col. 3:12-17

Introduction

- I. Becoming a Christian is a wonderful thing, but some do not understand their new responsibilities.
- II. Each Christian should do things to help a local congregation of the church of Christ.
 - A. A Christian should personally perform prescribed precepts.
 - B. A Christian should publicly participate with the rest of the congregation.
 - C. A Christian should properly persevere, no matter what.

Discussion

- I. A Christian should privately perform prescribed precepts.
 - A. No one can do for us what is required of us.
 - B. It is the responsibility of the individual Christian to make sure that he is living his life faithfully.
 1. Am I praying frequently (1 Thess. 5:17; Phil. 4:6)?
 2. Am I studying frequently (Matt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 2:15)?
 3. Do I visit and assist those in need (James 1:27)?
 4. Do I keep myself pure (Eph. 4:29; 2 Cor. 1:12)?
- II. A Christian should publicly participate with the rest of the congregation.
 - A. When we refuse to assemble with the saints, we hurt the local congregation (Heb. 10:25; Acts 2:42, 44).
 - B. When we refuse to worship, we hurt the local congregation (Col. 3:16; Luke 11:28; Phil. 4:8).
 - C. Become active in works of the local congregation (3 John 8).
- III. A Christian should properly persevere, no matter what.
 - A. We must understand that going backward is never going to get us where we want to go.
 - B. Our devotion to God must never end (Luke 9:62; Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:6-8).
 - C. Every unfaithful member of a local congregation hurts the local congregation (1 Cor. 12:25-27).

Conclusion

- I. It is the responsibility of each member to help make the local congregation as strong as possible.
- II. Do we help or hurt the congregation by our choices and actions?