

## **What Should Be Our Obligation to the Local church?**

In this we can certainly understand that we foremost have an obligation to Christ. However, it is also true that we have an obligation to the local church, because the church plays an important role in god's plan for his people.

**Ephesians 3:8-11** – Paul tells us this,

*“To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ, to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* And we also, know that membership in a local congregation is important for every single follower of Christ. Therefore, all Christians everywhere should be committed to the local congregation where they are members.

**Acts 9:26** – Luke, informs us by saying,

*“And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join himself with the disciples there.”*

**With these things in mind what is our obligation to the local church?**

The local congregation's reputation in any given area is very important. We cannot expect people to visit, ask questions, study, and eventually be converted if they know that individual members of the church are not living up to the pattern in which they proclaim. If they see hypocrisy among the members of the local church, it will not prosper. Each and every individual Christian must become what Jesus taught.

**Matthew 5:13-16** – Jesus said,

*“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven.”*

The success of any company has to have good leadership. This is also, true with the local church. This success also depends on membership that is cooperative and supported of that leadership. As the elders lead and guide according to the will of God and his truth and his authority, each member has an obligation to submit and obey.

**Hebrews 13:17** – the writer says,

*“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”*

The existence of any congregation depends upon the attendance of its members. Every member should feel an obligation to be present at every possible service, bible study, worship, gospel meeting, etc.

**Hebrews 10:24-25** – the writer says,

*“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching.”*

It is also, very important that the members have a love, concern, compassion, and loyalty to every other member and to the congregation as a whole. This means that all members put forth the effort in working together to maintain peace with others.

**Ephesians 4:1-3** – Paul writes,

*“I, therefore, the prisoner of the lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called. With all lowliness and gentleness, with long suffering, bearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.”*

The brotherly love between individual Christians should be obvious –for all to see. Isn’t this what Jesus taught concerning discipleship.

**John 13:35** – Jesus said,

*“By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

When a Christian leaves, a local church without good reason, it is an indication that he did not have a sense of loyalty that is so necessary if the church is to succeed. May god help us all to have the right mindset when it comes to our obligation to the local church. And may God help us to look at ourselves to make sure we have a proper attitude and love toward one another as god’s people.

**1 John 4:20** – John said,

*“If someone says, “I love god,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”*