

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Westlake church of Christ, 2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri 63385

Website: westlakechurchofchrist.org

Sunday: AM Bible Study – 9:30 a.m., AM Worship – 10:30 a.m., PM Worship – 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday: PM Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

With Privileges Comes Responsibility

by Dempsey Collins

- A. With every blessing or privilege comes a corresponding responsibility
 1. We have the privilege of American citizenship. With this privilege comes the responsibility to obey the laws and pay taxes. If I am not willing to accept these obligations then I have no right to be an American citizen.
 2. With the privilege of marriage comes the responsibility of fidelity, love and hard work to support your family. If I am unwilling to be faithful and serve the needs of my family then I have no right to be married.
 3. With the privilege of having children comes the responsibility of training them in the nurture and instruction of the Lord. If I am unwilling to accept the responsibility of training, teaching, and disciplining my children then I have no business having children.

- B. The principle of blessing and responsibility also applies in the spiritual realm (John 8:31; 15:1-8).
 1. As a child of God whose sins have been forgiven, I have many responsibilities to my Lord and Master Jesus. I am now responsible to confess Him before men (Matt. 10:32); study His word (II Tim. 2:15); pray (I Thess. 5:17); grow in the spirit of Christ (Eph. 4:11-16); help my neighbor (Luke 10:37); bear much fruit (John 15:1-8); and be kind-hearted, forgiving, and merciful (Eph. 4:32).
 2. One of the very important duties I have as a Christian is to assemble with fellow Christians for worship and edification (Heb. 10:23-25).
 3. If I am not willing to accept this or any responsibility that comes with being a Christian, then I am not fit to be a Christian.

- C. Christians in the first century were part of a local fellowship
 1. Examples of congregational fellowship
 - a. Romans 16:1 - “Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchrea”
 - b. Colossians 4:12 - “Epaphras who is one of your number”
 - c. Philemon 1 and 2 - “The church which meets in your house”
 - d. Acts 13:1-4 - “in the church that was there”

D. Summary

1. First century Christians were not servants at large.
2. They recognized a responsibility to be in fellowship with a local body of believers.
3. Upon being identified with a specific body of Christians they worked and worshipped together.
4. First century Christians agreed to work under the oversight of local elders.
5. As a member of the local family, brethren knew they could rely on their service in various ways (assembling, edification, contributions, etc.)

E. Conclusion

Accepting my responsibility to work and worship with a local fellowship of Christians is a part of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

When we meet together as a local family our weekly assemblies provide rich opportunities to obey numerous commands of the Lord.

Many Blessings of Assembling

1. Helps show our love for God (John 14:15)
 - God expects me to be there (Heb. 10:25)
 - Not assembling shows a lack of love
2. Opportunity for growth and edification
 - “Provoke unto love and good deeds” (Heb. 10:2)
 - Helps greatly in development of Godly character (become like object of worship [Eph. 4:22-26])
 - Teaching helps me “grow in grace and knowledge”
 - Lord’s Supper helps develop thankfulness, humility, and new resolve
 - Singing lifts our spirits to new spiritual heights
 - Prayers draw us closer to God
 - Giving shows sacrifice and proof of love
3. Helps fortify us against apostasy (helps us to be ready, watching, waiting)
4. Provides an opportunity to strengthen and edify others (Heb. 10:24-25)
5. Provides opportunity to help needy, weak, sick (Matt. 25:35); opportunity to bear much fruit (John 15:2)
6. Sets a good example and helps prove your love for others (Matt. 5:16)

From these passages it should be clear to us that assembling regularly with a local family of Christians is both a duty and a sacred privilege. It is a duty and privilege we cannot afford to miss.

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16