

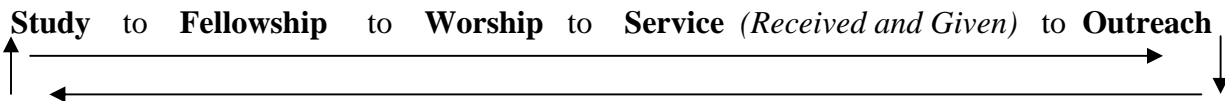
Lesson 11: Our Church Family (Part 2)

We live in a very selfish world. The people of the world always ask first, "What is in it for me? What do I get out of it? How can something or someone serve me?" Perhaps the greatest reason why over half of all marriages are breaking up is because one of both of the people are seeking first what they can get out of the marriage, instead of first asking, "What can I give to this marriage? How can I serve my spouse?"

President John F. Kennedy asked the question in a speech given few months before his assassination "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

How would you rewrite this statement concerning our attitude toward our church?

What kind of attitude does someone show who thinks about church only in terms of what he can get out of it? _____



A responsive church member is involved in all of these areas.

Likewise, all groups and activities of a church should contribute to one or more of these five functions.

List a few opportunities offered by our church for learning: _____

You should be involved in at least one continuing class offered by the church in the Word of God.

_____ Why? _____

List some of the fellowship opportunities offered by our church: _____

It is important to be involved in at least one of the fellowship groups of our congregation. _____

Why? _____

Which fellowship activities are you involved with? _____

List some of the worship opportunities offered by our church: _____

It is important to be involved in a worship service of our congregation. _____

Why? _____

How do you prepare for worship at our congregation? _____

List some of the opportunities for ministry and serving in the ministry of our church? _____

Our church grows as its members witness about the Lord and invite people to church and classes.

Have you invited people to church yet? _____ What is your greatest challenge when it comes to sharing the message of Good News with other people? _____

If you know of someone who is not growing in the Lord through His Word, what does God want you to do? _____

In a future lesson we will discuss how to witness to people. There is, of course, one thing you do every day of your life for your church and your Lord. What is that? _____

What are some of the things you should include in your daily prayers for the church? _____

According to the Bible, God expects us to give:

- Our first fruits, before anything else,
- What we have left after paying all the bills,
- Only when we feel like it.

True or False: Once our giving is established God doesn't call us to re-examine our giving to Him.
Why?

Why should we bring God our first fruit offerings? _____

T or F: If we give God the first fruits, we may not have enough for paying our bills. Why?

According to the Bible, God wants us to give our offerings:

- Only when we are not on vacation,
- Only when we come to church,
- When we have enough left over,
- On a regular and deliberate basis.

Matthew 19:27,29

What promise do we have from Jesus here? _____

How to be a Good Church Member

1. Be Faithful
 - Attend the services and functions of your church.
 - Maintain a daily communion with God through your personal and family devotions at home.
2. Be Active
 - Add your ideas and support to congregation life.
 - Help the church's mission by adding your involvement.
3. Be a Giver
 - Contribute your time, your money, and your abilities.
 - Pray every day for our church and for our district and for other congregations in Lake Jackson and the Nation.

Homework

1. If you are not active in one bible class of the church, decide to make a change and join one this week.
2. If you are not involved in one group or regular activity of the church, decide which one you wish to try and then get involved.
3. If you are not giving to the Lord on a regular basis, decide to change that this week. Sit down with your Lord, in prayer, with your family and with your calculator to determine how much you will set aside for the Lord. Remember to use your weekly offering envelopes.
4. Be sure to have the habit of praying daily for the needs and ministry of your church. Pray for the pastor, leaders, teachers, elders, and the spiritual growth of all members. Pray for the success of our programs and plans. Pray to the Lord to bring us new members who are hungry for the Word of God. Put these things on your prayer list.
5. Add to your prayer list the success of the Gospel wherever it is preached and taught throughout the world.
6. With another member, lead a prayer to the Lord for the needs of your church.