

# Our Responsibilities to the Local Church

Acts 9:26

## Introduction:

- A. Bible speaks of *one* church and *many* churches without contradiction.
  - 1. One universal church. (Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:4; 1:22,23; 1 Cor. 12:13).
  - 2. Many local churches. (1 Cor. 1:1,2; 4:17; Acts 14:23).
- B. Bible speaks of a Christian's responsibilities to the local church.

## Discussion:

### I. We Should *Join* The Local Church. (Acts 9:26).

- A. Differs from denominational “joining the church”.
  - 1. Saved by faith, join by baptism. (cf. Acts 16:33; 1 Cor. 12:13).
  - 2. Separates salvation and church membership. (cf. Eph. 5:23).
- B. Often called “identifying” to avoid confusion with denominational concept.
  - 1. Lets brethren know you want to be part of local church—no members at large.
  - 2. Lets brethren know you want to subject of oversight and program—no floater.
  - 3. Lets brethren know you are subject to correction and discipline of congregation.

### II. We Should *Support* The Local Church.

- A. Its assemblies. (Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:7).
- B. Its work. (cf. Acts 11:29; 15:22; 1 Cor. 16:2).
- C. Its worship. (Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:15,16).

### III. We Should *Strengthen* The Local Church. (cf. Rev. 3:2)

- A. Through godly living. (cf. Titus 2:11,12).
  - 1. Ungodly member weakens church. (1 Cor. 5:6)
  - 2. Ungodly member hurts church's influence.
- B. Through evangelism. (cf. Acts 20:20).
- C. Through enthusiasm. (1 Cor. 14:12; 15:58; Tit. 2:14).
  - 1. About teaching and preaching programs—classes, meetings, etc.
  - 2. About Worshiping God—singing, praying, etc.
  - 3. Not “hip, hip, hooray” type, but a real controlled sustained interest.

### IV. We Should *Correct* The Local Church. (cf. Paul and Corinthian church).

- A. By continually improving and purifying it. (cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-4).
- B. Not by “nit picking” it to death. (cf. Gal. 5:15; 2 Tim. 2:14).

## Conclusion:

- A. Let us be assets rather than liabilities to local church.
- B. Let us settle down and be a real part of a local church.