THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Text: Eph. 3:21
Intro. All through the ages God has called upon His people to meet and work together. In the Old Testament people assembled around altars, the tabernacle and in the temple. The synagogues were popular in Jesus' day. The Lord instituted the New Testament Church during His ministry. He is the Head of every New Testament Church. We are to give glory to God in a church by Christ Jesus. Your church membership is important.

I. THE PERNEXNESS

A. The will of God.
1. In Acts 2 those who were saved were baptized.
2. Those who were baptized were added to the church. 2:47
3. God's will for His people is that they belong to a New Testament church.

B. The Word of God.
1. We are taught to give glory to God through a church by Christ.
2. We are to assemble regularly for His services. Heb. 10:25
3. We are to follow the example of our Lord found in Luke 4:16.
4. The word of God teaches us to be a church member.

C. The way of God.
1. God has a definite plan and purpose for your life.
2. That plan is salvation, baptism, and church membership.
3. This is God's way for you. It doesn't come easy. By His grace we can walk in His way.

II. THE FELLOWSHIP

A. With the Saviour.
1. "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His dear Son Jesus Christ our Lord." I Cor. 1:9
2. The redeemed have a special relationship to the Lord. Let the redeemed say so.
3. We fellowship in the sacrifice for sin that Jesus made for
1. "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us..." I John 1:3
2. God's people need God's people. Those you associate with will influence you.
3. We are to exhort one another and so much the more as you see that day approaching. Heb. 10:25

D. In the Spirit.
1. "...if any fellowship of the Spirit." Phil. 2:1
2. We are to worship God in truth and in spirit. John 4:24
4. Our bodies are His temples. I Cor. 6:19-20

III. THE FRUITFULNESS.
A. The explanation.
1. The Lord wants us to bear much and more fruit. John 15:2, 5, 8
2. He saved you and sets you apart for service.
3. "...and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." I Thess. 1:9

B. The association.
1. Trees normally produce fruit and other trees. Bake oak leaves and acorns will produce other trees.
2. Flowers seed out and produce blooms, flowers, and other plants.
3. We influence others as we associate with them.

C. The illustration.
1. The fruit that needs to be borne is listed in Gal. 5:22, 23
2. The fruit is a spiritual fruit that is manifested in actions, attitudes, words, deeds, and emotions.
3. He wants us to become something that He can use.

IV. THE FRIENDSHIP.
A. Friends who care.
1. They care for you. They love you.
2. Christian friends are for a life time.

B. Friends who caution you.
1. The Lord warned His disciples many times of many things.
2. We need to caution one another.

C. Friends who counsel you.
1. We need to advise and seek the advice of others.
2. Talking things over and out always helps.

D. Friends who calm you.

1. We can get upset and troubled.
2. Thank God for friends who notice and help calm us down.

E. Friends who challenge you.
1. They challenge us to a greater service.
2. They challenge our thinking and action.

THE FAITHFULNESS.
A. Joshua's example.
1. He said, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Josh. 24:25
2. He decided and determined to serve the Lord.
3. They could do what they wanted to, but he was serving God.

B. Job's example.
1. He had seen a lot of hard times.
2. Job said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him..." Job 13:15
3. Job wasn't a fair weather worshipper.

C. John's example.
1. John was put on the isle of Patmos.
2. "...be thou faithful unto death." Rev. 2:10
3. Be faithful in life and at death.

D. Jesus' example.
1. He prayed for the Father to remove the cup of suffering.
2. "...nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done..." Luke 22:42

A HEAVENLY TASTE
By Jesse R. Spurlock

TEXT: I Peter 2:1-4

I. WE'VE TASTED HIS GRACIOUSNESS IN SALVATION.
A. Extended, totally unearned. Isa. 6:5
B. Extended to all. II Peter 3:9
C. Extended even to his enemies. I John 4:10
D. Extended to "Even Me". Rom. 5:6-8

II. WE'VE TASTED HIS GRACIOUSNESS IN DELIVERANCE.
A. Provides a foundation. Psa. 40:1-3
B. Provides a new nature. II Cor. 5:17
C. Provides new goals in Life. Phil. 3:13-14
D. Provides a new ability. Phil. 2:13, 4:13

III. WE'VE TASTED HIS GRACIOUSNESS IN KNOWLEDGE.
A. Gracious discernment. Acts 8:30-31, I Thess. 5:4-5
C. Gracious provision. I Cor. 2:10-12
D. Gracious promise. James 1:5

IV. A GRACIOUSNESS WORTH SHARING!
A. A burning testimony. Psa. 66:16
B. A burning message. Acts 4:20
D. Glorious promise. Psa. 126:6

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN BELIEVERS SIN?
By L. Chester Guinn

TEXT: I John 1:8-10, James 4:17
Is it necessary to spend time discussing the question, "Do believers sin?" These texts should settle this once and for all. All agree it is possible, and most all admit it is a reality.

If sin should cause you to lose your salvation, how many would you have to commit to do it? Is there a certain number of sins you are allowed? This is a question that all teachers of apostasy should answer.

It is a very bad thing for a child of God to sin. No one will deny this. Please read I John 2:1 Just what does happen when believers sin?

I. THEY LOSE THE JOYS OF SALVATION, Psa. 51:12.
A. David sinned and lost his joy.
B. There is no joy in feeling and knowing God's displeasure.
C. Loss of joy results in the loss of song and testimony.
D. Results in the loss of vigor and vitality in Christian service.
E. Some who have lost their joy are so miserable they really think they have lost salvation.

II. THEY LOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST.
A. Relationship and fellowship are not the same.
   1. Our relationship is that of a child to a parent.
   2. Our fellowship depends on our conduct.
   3. Fellowship is changeable, while relationship is not.
B. Fellowship can be restored by confession, I John 1:9.

III. SIN BRINGS CHASTISEMENT AND SOURCING FROM GOD.
A. "Whom the Lord loves He chastens,"

Heb. 12:6, Rev. 3:19.

B. Unconfessed sin brings harsh judgment. I Cor. 11:29-30
   1. David's son died.
   2. Ananias and Sapphira died.
C. Is this the way you want the Lord to deal with you?

IV. SINS WILL STOP BELIEVERS FROM PRAYING
AND WILL MAKE THEIR PRAYERS INEFFECTIVE.
A. God will not answer where unconfessed sin is present, Psa. 66:18, Isa. 59:1,2.
B. Can you pray the Model Prayer, "and forgive us our trespasses?"

V. SIN IN BELIEVERS LIVES WILL BE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO OTHER BELIEVERS.
B. Sin of Achan caused defeat in all Israel, Joshua 7:20-26.
C. Is your job, your speech, your recreation a stumbling block to others?

VI. SINS OF BELIEVERS WILL CAUSE SOME TO STUMBLE INTO HELL.
A. Words of Jesus in Matt. 18:7.
B. Here is found the biggest hindrance to Christianity.

THE CHRIST OF GLORY

Glen Tropp

TEXT: John 1:1-5
INTRODUCTION:
A. The purpose of the gospels-the presentation of Jesus Christ.
B. The purpose of the church-the presentation of Jesus Christ.
C. The purpose of the Holy Spirit-the presentation of Jesus Christ.
D. The purpose of the child of God-the presentation of Jesus Christ.
E. The purpose of this text-the presentation of the divine sonship of the Lord Jesus.
   1. The relation of Christ to time.vl
   2. The relation of Christ to the Godhead. vl
   3. The relation of Christ to the Holy Trinity. vl
   4. The relation of Christ to the
universe. v3
5. The relation of Christ to man.
   v4, 5
I. CHRIST-THE COMMUNICATOR-John 1:1-2 IN
   THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE
   WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS
   GOD. v2-THE SAME WAS IN THE BEGINNING
   WITH GOD.
A. "In the beginning was the Word."-His
   relation to time.
   1. This is something that is
      extremely difficult to comprehend
      completely with our finite minds.
   2. Scripturally-the Bible reveals
      several beginnings.
         24:21
      b. The beginning of the Gospel of
         Jesus Christ. Mark 1:1
      c. The beginning of sorrows. Mark
         13:8
      d. The beginning of signs & wonders.
         John 2:11
   3. Specifically- Here in the text the
      Word was before all things.
      a. In the beginning of the
         beginnings.
      b. He was not only from the
         beginning-He was the beginning.
      c. Therefore He is and was eternal.
      d. John 17:4-5
   4. "The Word"
      a. As the word he did not come into
         being, or begin to be-but he was
         with God.
      b. The word has reference to the 2nd
         person of the Holy Trinity.
      c. He is not just A word, but rather
         "the" word.
      d. Word is an expression and it's by
         words that we articulate our
         speech.
      e. Christ is the final spokesman of
         God.
         (1) Heb. 1:1-2
         (2) Rev. 1:8
         (3) John 1:18
   f. Word is a medium of
      manifestation
      (1) I have in my mind a thought-
          but others know not it's
          nature
      (2) One clothes their thought in a
          word and then people begin to
          know something about them or
          what they are thinking.
      (3) Christ-as the word-manifests
          the invisible God.
   g. A word is a means of
      communication.
      (1) By words, I make known my
          will-express myself-impart
          knowledge
      (2) Christ is the divine
      communicator or transmitter,
      communicating to us the life,
      laws, and love of God.
   h. A word is a method of revelation.
      (1) By words a speaker exhibits
          both his intellectual caliber
          and moral character.
      (2) Christ as the word reveals the
          attributes and perfection of
          God.
          (a) He displayed his power.
          (b) He manifested his wisdom.
          (c) He exhibited his holiness.
          (d) He unveiled his heart.
   B. "And the word was with God."
   C. "And the word was God"-God in the
      flesh.
      1. He has always been alive and is
         himself God.
      2. It is only in Christ that God is
         fully known.
      3. John 14:9
      4. Image of God - II Cor. 4:6
   II. CHRIST-THE CREAT.or-John 1:3 ALL
      THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM; AND WITHOUT
      HIM WAS NOT ANYTHING MADE THAT WAS
      MADE.
      A. Both the seen and the unseen was
         created by him and for him.
      B. All the stars, planets, moon, sun,
         etc. were made by him.
      C. Col. 1:16-17
   III. CHRIST-THE CONVERTER-John 1:4-5-IN
      HIM WAS LIFE; AND THE LIFE WAS THE
      LIGHT OF MEN. v5-AND THE LIGHT
      SHINETH IN DARKNESS; AND THE DARKNESS
      COMPREHENDED IT NOT.
      A. He is the fountain of life-The life
         giver
      B. Convert means to change or
      transfrom.
         1. Transforms us from darkness to
            light.
         2. Transforms us from death to life.
   CONCLUSION:
   A. The sad reality - because men love
      darkness rather than light - they
      "comprehend him not" v5

I WANT TO RECEIVE
THE PAPER

NAME _______________________
ADDRESS _______________________
CITY ___________________ STATE & ZIP ____________
CHANGE OF ADDRESS_____NEW SUBSCRIPTION ________
OLD ADDRESS ________________________
THE SINNER'S CALL
THE SAVIOUR'S CONSOLATION

Key verses: 42-43
Introduction:

A. WHERE does this scene take place? CALVARY.
   1. From man's viewpoint...A PLACE OF EXECUTION of criminals:
   2. From God's viewpoint...THE PLACE OF SACRIFICE!
   3. As for the two criminals...THEIR DEATHBED.

B. WHO do we see involved in the scene?
   1. Jesus, the "RIGHTeous:" a. Religious Rulers
   2. Many sin-hardened "REJECTERS:" b. Hardened soldiers:
      c. One convicted criminal: (DYING, SAYING UGLY THINGS TO AND ABOUT JESUS: THE ONLY ONE ABLE TO HELP HIM.)
   3. A Christ RECEIVER:
   C. WHAT do we hear from Calvary?
      1. Rulers deriding Jesus; Soldier II. mocking Jesus, A dying criminal railing on Jesus:
      2. THE MERCIFUL INTERCESSION OF THE SAVIOR;
      3. A criminal's ADMISSION OF GUILT...PLEA FOR MERCY;
      4. THE SAVIOR'S PROCLAMATION: (sweetest words mortal ears have ever heard!)

D. Some of what was SEEN at Calvary:
   1. GOD'S SIN OFFERING PAYING THE SINNER'S SIN DEBT! Rom. 6:23a
   2. HEAVEN'S LIGHTS TURNED OUT AS JESUS DIES A SINNER'S DEATH:
   3. THE RENTING OR TEARING OF THE VEIL...THUS SIGNIFYING THAT "REDEMPTION'S PRICE" HAS BEEN FULLY PAID...AND THE WAY OF ACCESS TO THE FATHER IS OPEN TO ALL THROUGH JESUS—John 14:6

III. THE DYING SINNER'S "PERCEPTION:"

A. Personal GUILT: v 41 "we indeed justly"
B. Personal CONDEMNATION: v 40 "Same condemnation"
C. PERFECTION OF JESUS!!! v 41
   2. Pilate's wife: Matt. 27:19
   3. The HEAVENLY FATHER'S TESTIMONY: Matt. 17:5
   4. HOLY SPIRIT'S TESTIMONY: Heb. 4:15c; I Peter 2:22

THE SINNER'S "PREDICAMENT:"
A. DYING...ALMOST TOO LATE!
B. DYING...A CRIMINAL
C. DYING...IN SIN'S GUILT AND CONDEMNATION
D. DYING...LOST—NOT SAVED Jer. 8:20
E. DYING...IN REACH OF THE "SAVIOR OF SINNERS!"
F. DYING...HELPLESS, HOPELESS,
G. DYING...UNPREPARED — UNACCEPTABLE TO GOD!!!
H. DYING...UNABLE TO STOP THE CLOCK OR CALENDAR!!
   1. Eccl. 8:8
   I. OF "SINNERS IN GENERAL:"
      1. None that sinneth not. Eccl. 7:20
      2. None measures up to GOD'S STANDARD OF PERFECTION! Rom. 3:23
      3. All who have rejected Jesus are CONDEMNED BY THEIR OWN SINS! John 3:18
      4. All such are both SPIRITUALLY DEAD TO GOD AND DYING IN SIN!
         John 8:24
         a. Dying UNPREPARED, UNFORGIVEN, UNSAVED, UNACCEPTABLE TO GOD, UNABLE TO SAVE THEMSELVES! Jer. 13:23,
         Jer. 2:22

ON JESUS AND BEING ASSURED OF HEAVEN!!! Rom. 10:13

THE SINNER'S "PROPITIATION:"
(Atonement-Covering) I John 2:2

A. Jesus is the SINNER'S "REDEEMER!"
   1. Isa. 53:6; Eph. 1:7; I Peter 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9
B. Jesus is the SINNER'S RANSOM-PRICE! I Tim. 2:6; Heb. 2:9,26
C. Jesus is the SINNER'S "RECEIVER!"
   1. Remember John 14:6b
   2. He is the way! the "ACCESS INTO grace" John 14:6a;Rom 5:2
D. Jesus is the SINNER'S RIGHTEOUSNESS! II Cor. 5:21

By D. B. Wright
WHAT THE SINNER MUST REALIZE

TEXT: Romans 3:23

Intro:

A. In our day and time men and women do not sin in their eyes. The ways of a man are clean in his own eyes.

B. Not many years back, we had sinners. When God's word was preached they wept.

I. The sinner must believe there is a God. Heb. 11:6

A. The fool has said in his heart there is not God.

B. People today will tell us there is no God.

II. The sinner must realize that he is a sinner. Rom. 3:23; 5:12; and 3:10-18.

III. The sinner must realize God loves him. John 3:16; Rom. 5:8.

IV. The sinner must realize he must repent toward God of his sins.

A. God grants and gives repentance. Acts 5:31; 11:18

B. There must be a Godly sorrow for his sins, this worketh repentance, which produces a turning in his life.

C. Repentance is a gift from God.

V. The sinner must realize he must exercise faith in Christ. Eph. 2:8-9.

A. Faith is a gift from God also.

VI. God's work and not man's. Titus 3:5; John 6:28-29

A. Therefore it is not of man's work. Eph. 2:9

B. It is the work of God. So man can not boast of any work on his part.

C. God wants no flesh (natural man) to boast of glory in his presence. The only boasting we have is in the Lord.

FINDING AND DOING GOD'S WILL

By Muncy Harris

TEXT: I John 2:17, "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever"

INTRODUCTION:

A. Some things pass away (17a).

1. Things that, often times, seems most important to people are those things that will not last.

2. John lists them in v. 16.

a. "Lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the

JESUS CARES FOR YOU
pride of life..." (a sinful desire).

b. People will do whatever necessary, no matter who it hurts, to get what they lust after.

c. But, when they get it, it has a way of losing its appeal and attractiveness and, very shortly, it passes away.

E. Some things will stand forever (17b)

1. This doesn't speak of security. Why?
   a. Because there's nothing we can do to guarantee that we will be forever saved - that work is in the hands of the Father and the Son (John 10:17-30).

2. It speaks of stability.
   b. So, the child of God can become stable, unmovable, unwavering as he does the will of God.

   c. But, how do we find and do God's will.

I. WE FIND HIS WILL BY COMMITTING.

   A. Committing to prayer, Psms. 27:11.
   B. Committing to probe, John 5:39.
   C. Committing to pursuit, Psms. 119:105.
   D. Committing to plan, Psms. 37:23.

II. WE DO HIS WILL BY CONTINUING.


EDIFYING THE BODY
By D. Paul Tuck Sr.

TEXT: - Eph. 4:16

NIV- "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Here, as in his letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 12) Paul calls the church together in unity, using the analogy of the human body.

Psalm 133:1

God is a God of order, as seen in nature, in the running of the universe, and in the placing of and operation of the thousands of parts of our human body.

Unity is a necessary factor in the operation and growth of any living organism.

We see its vital importance in...

A. Our human body.
B. Inter-human relationships.
C. The order of family Structure.
D. In God ordained government.
E. In the local New Testament Church.

I. SOURCE OF MINISTRY:- vs 7

A. Grace:-
1. Grace saves and keeps us. Eph. 2:8-9; I Peter 1:5
3. Grace is the basis of operation or function of individual members with the Body of Christ (local church membership) making it possible to overcome affliction. II Cor. 12:9 Victory is in JESUS!
4. Privilege of service and the endowment for service are alike to be viewed as grace shown by Christ to His people, and not just simply in incidental ways, but in accordance with methods of dispensation. Eph. 4:11-12

B. Gift:-
This word is used as a "connector" between Christ and the church member. Its better translation is to "apportion" or "distribute."

1. The gift is measured or apportioned. Each individual receives according to the will of the Sovereign Distributor. We cannot view our gifts as those received by independent choice.

2. All that concerns administration and service in the Kingdom of God was committed to Christ in His ascension, and this He, through the Spirit, distributes "to every man severally, as he will." I Cor. 12:11

3. Can the clay question the potter as to why it was formed as it was? Rom. 9:14-24 God's movement in the church is through the members he has saved, gifted and placed there by the Spirit, in accordance with sovereign grace.

II. SERVICE OF MINISTRY:- vs 11-15

This is a play on words since "ministry" means "service." How does the grace of God operate? What is its purpose as concerns the gift given us of Christ? How can we as individuals function within the body as a whole?

A. Purpose of Ministry: vs 11-12
1. The Perfection of the saints.
2. The Work of the Ministry.
3. The Edifying of the Body of Christ.

B. Preparation of God's People:- vs 13
1. Perfecting—making perfect, complete or mature in Christ.
2. Unity in faith—the individual is to be brought to unity with other members in the faith (system of teaching or doctrine.)
3. Knowledge of the Son of God—knowing the person and power of Christ. Phil. 3:10-11

4. A perfect man—the goal is Christian maturity.
5. Attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. To have and be all that Christ is and has for us.

C. Power of Ministry:— vs 14-15
1. That we no longer be little immature children.
2. Tossed to and fro, carried away by every wind of teaching (unstable doctrinally), by the trickery of men and craftiness of false teaching (cults.) James 1:6-7
3. Deceivers—false teachers are everywhere to deceive those who do not grow up in the faith and are shadowed by the church.
4. To be able to speak the truth (in love).
5. Grow up! Become mature adults in the faith. In Christ the Head of the Body. No member, no body can survive, severed from its head.

III. SUPPLY OF MINISTRY:— vs 16
Each individual member supplies service to the body as a whole.
A. Equipping Ministry:
   1. Every joint supplies—this means to equip or support, as every member in our body is so joined, and so works together to equip the whole body for service.
   2. Each member is equipped, gifted by Christ to in turn equip the whole body.
B. Effectual Ministry:
   1. Not only does the individual (every part) member equip, but it effects (enables) the proper growth and service of the other members of the body individually and as a whole. (or

3. No member is uninvolved. This is the devil's lie. You are important as an individual, but you cannot function independently of the whole body.

CONCLUSION—Our conduct, our functioning as a believer is vital to the work of Christ. We are saved to serve (minister) and that place of ministry, Scripturally speaking is only in and through the local New Testament Church.

GIVING AN ACCOUNT UNTO JESUS
By Charles Swilling

Text: I Pet. 4:5-9

I. THE CHRISTIAN V5
A. The Judge John 5:22
B. The judged I Cor. 5:10;Rev .20:11
C. The judgment

II. THE CAUSE V6
A. The word
B. The witness
C. The way

III. THE CAUTION V7
A. The end
B. The evidence
C. The exhortation

IV. THE CHARITY V8
A. The favor
B. The fervency
C. The finding

V. THE CONDUCT V9
A. The hospitality
B. The help
C. The holiness

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