

What I Owe The Local Congregation

Lesson Six

My Pull (or, My Pocketbook)

Introduction:

1. The church is the blood bought body of Christ (Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:22-23).
2. While I am a member of the universal church of Christ, my service in the church is rendered on a local level – under the local organization of the congregation.
3. I owe the local congregation my prompt presence.
4. I owe the local congregation my participation.
5. I owe the local congregation my pattern and my positive influence.
6. I owe the local congregation my personal work.
7. I owe the local congregation my pull...

I. I Owe the Church My Pull with a Proper Attitude toward My Pocketbook

- A. Material things are a gift from God.
 1. Necessities of life (Matthew 6:24-33).
 2. Blessings of life (James 1:17; Matthew 7:11; Deut. 8:17-18).
- B. Material things are temporary (2 Peter 3:10-13).
- C. Material things are not supreme (Mat. 6:19-21; 1 Jn. 2:15-16; Heb. 11:26)
- D. Material things are given to be given (Ephesians 4:28; Acts 20:35).

II. I Owe the Church My Pull with Proper Actions toward My Pocketbook

- A. I should give bountifully!
 1. Demands stewardship (1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 16:1-2; cf. I. A. *above*)
 2. Demands sacrifice (Acts 4:34-37; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:5-6).
- B. I should give joyfully!
 1. 2 Corinthians 9:7
 - a. “God” – *All powerful Creator and Sustainer*
 - b. “Loveth” – *greatest testimony & emotion*
 - c. “A” – *individuality*
 - d. “Cheerful” – *prompt, willing, joyous (Gr. hilario)*
 - e. “Giver” – *one who gives*
 2. 2 Corinthians 8:12
- C. I should give regularly!
 1. Upon the first day of every week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
 - a. The work of the local church continues even when I am not here.
 - b. I must not neglect my giving due to vacation, etc.
 2. As an act of worship to God.

Conclusion:

1. As we partake of the Lord’s Supper, we are reminded of the gift of God.
2. Can we then turn around and neglect to give sacrificially of our means to Him?

It’s not what you would do
But it’s what you are doing

If millions were your lot,
With what you’ve got.