

What I Owe The Local Congregation

Lesson Seven

My Prayers

My Patience

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.
8. I owe the local congregation my prayers and my patience...

I. I Owe the Church My Prayers

- A. I should offer prayers of thanksgiving for the church.
 1. We should be thankful that the church exists.
 2. We should be thankful for the local congregation.
 - a. Rom. 1:8-9; Eph. 1:15-16; Phil. 1:4; Col. 1:3; 1 Thes. 1:2
 - b. In many places there is not a local church...
 - i. Influence in the community.
 - ii. Influence on moral issues.
 - iii. Influence on our children.
 - iv. Influence on our faith and faithfulness.
- B. I should offer prayers of supplication for the church.
 1. We ought to pray for the church's health. (3 Jn. 1:2-3; 2 Ths. 1:3)
 2. We ought to pray for the church's influence. (1 Thes. 1:6-10; Phm. 1:5-7)
 3. We ought to pray for the church's growth. (Col. 4:3; 2 Ths. 3:1)
- C. I should offer prayers of intercession for the church.
 1. We must pray for those who lead (Acts 14:23; 20:36).
 2. We must pray for those who suffer.
 3. We must pray for those who struggle.
 4. We must pray for those who return (Jam. 5:16; Acts 8:22-24).

II. I Owe the Church My Patience

- A. I must be patient with the leaders of the church.
 1. Rom. 2:4; 1 Pet. 3:20; 2 Pet. 3:9
 2. 2 Cor. 11:1-4
- B. I must be patient with the members of the church.
 1. Romans 15:1
 2. 1 Cor. 3:2; 13:7; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12-13
- C. I must be patient with the work of the church.

Conclusion: *Are you praying for the church? Are you patient with the church?*