

Subject: Service
Text: Eph. 2:10
Method: Expository
Title: **The Duty of the Church**

General Purpose: Provide general encouragement to work with patience.

Special Purpose: To summarize and expound upon Christ's expectations of His church.

Thesis Sentence: The church has been given specific duties to fulfill in keeping with its relationship to Jesus Christ and His mission to seek and save the lost.

Introduction:

- A. This message is often heard taught by the acronym "B.E.E." for Benevolence, Edification and Evangelism encompassing the work of the church. This lesson chooses a different and more detailed approach.
- B. Duty and responsibility are often mentioned with respect to discipleship and the church (Mat. 5:16; Lk. 9:23; Jn. 13:15; Acts 20:35; 1 Thes. 5:14; Heb. 3:13)
- C. Doing our duty to Christ (obedience of faith - Rom. 1:6; 16:26) is not the same as performing "works of self-merit" (compare Eph. 2:8-9 works of self-merit and James 2:20-26 works of obedient faith)

I. Duty to God

- A. His work -- Eph. 2:10; 3:10; Jn. 6:28-29
- B. His Son -- Mat. 17:1-5; Heb. 5:8-9; Jn. 3:33-36
- C. His word -- 1 Jn. 5:3; 2:3-6, 17
- D. His glory -- 1 Cor. 10:31; Mat. 5:16; Jn. 15:8
- E. His worship -- Mat. 4:10; Jn. 4:23-24

II. Duty to brothers and sisters in Christ (the church)

- A. Do good -- Gal. 6:10; Heb. 13:16; Jas. 2:15-17; 4:17
- B. Love one another -- Jn. 13:34-35; 1 Jn. 3:16; 4:20-21
- C. Comfort one another -- 2 Cor. 1:3-4; 1 Thes. 4:18
- D. Discipline one another -- Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5; 1 Tim. 1:18-20; 2 Thes. 3:11-15; Gal. 6:1 (Keep it pure)
 1. Church discipline begins with self-discipline (Mat. 7:3-4; 2 Jn. 8; 2 Cor. 13:5)
 2. Discipline is corrective action, and not to be confused with punishment (1 Cor. 5:5; 1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Thes. 3:14-15)
 3. Punishment is in the domain of the Lord, for only He can execute it in perfect judgment (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Thes. 1:7-10).
 4. Applying corrective discipline is in the domain of the church, but punishment is only in the domain of the Lord. Discipline must never be confused with punishment.
- E. Duty to provide for one another -- Acts 2:44-47; 4:32; 2 Cor. 8:10-15; Jas. 1:27 (widows and orphans); Mat. 19:21; Jas. 2 (the poor)
 1. God is concerned about the NEEDS of His children
 2. NEEDS must not be confused with WANTS, as is often the case
- F. To the teaching and edification (strengthening) of itself -- Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Tim. 2:2
- G. To preachers of the word
 1. Produce -- 2 Tim. 2:2
 2. Send to preach -- Acts 13:1-3; Rom. 10:15
 3. Cooperate with one another is helping -- 1 Cor. 16:15-16
 4. Support -- Lk. 10:7; 1 Cor. 9:7-14; Gal. 6:6
 - a. Faithful gospel workers have the right to assistance
 - b. Have no right to require more than they deserve, or than is necessary
 - c. If not working, should receive nothing (2 Thes. 3:10)

5. Biblical ways to support preachers and other gospel workers:
 - a. By self-support (most often mentioned). It may be that the church cannot support a preacher, and that the preacher must labor to help the church, or for some other reason -- Acts 18:1-3; 20:35; 1 Cor. 9:14-15; 1 Thes. 2:9; 2 Thes. 3:8-9
 - b. Receive from those being ministered to (second most often mentioned) - Mat. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 9:11-14; Gal. 6:6; Phil. 4:14 (see Acts 16:9-34 Paul planted the church at Phillipi)
 - c. Receive from churches not laboring among (mentioned only once) -- 2 Cor. 11:7-8

III. Duty to the non-Christian world

- A. Evangelize and teach -- Mat. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:47; Jn. 20:21; Eph. 3:9-11
 1. Tender hearted people are shocked that the "ignorant savage" would be lost with out Christ (2 Thes. 1:7-9)
 2. God is not willing that even one soul should perish without Christ (1 Tim. 2:1-4)
 3. God has provided the remedy: "Go ye therefore . . ."
- B. Be model citizens -- Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17
 1. God is the author of civil authority
 2. Christians are to be in submission insofar as the law of the land does not countermand the law of God (Acts 5:29), in which case the higher law prevails
- C. Provide good influence -- Mat. 5:13-16; 1 Pet. 2:11-12
 1. Example is an important teacher (1 Tim. 4:12)
 2. Many more people will see what we do than will hear what we say
 3. The impact of our words will always be tempered by the effect of our example

Conclusion:

- A. All churches are subject to the same duties, regardless of size, or amount of wealth
 1. Size and wealth affect only the degree, or amount of work done, they provide no excuse for lack of service (Mat. 25:14-30)
 2. The failure of the "one talent man" was not due to his being poorer than the rest, but to the fact that he did nothing with what he had
- B. To the extent of each church's ability, it must fulfill its duties to God, its membership, including its gospel workers, and to the non-Christian world

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