

WHAT IS OUR DUTY TO THE LORD'S CHURCH?

I. FIRST, OUR DUTY IS TO UNDERSTAND WHO STARTED THE CHURCH.

Jesus made it very plain that He would start and build His Church.

When you and I understand the Church is God's idea, not man, it makes a difference. The church is the only org. you can be a part of that God has started. Others have been started by man. Colleges, mission orgs., hospitals, etc.

Matt. 16:18, "I will build MY CHURCH..."

Matt. 21:13, "It is written, MY HOUSE shall be called a house of prayer."

There is nothing wrong with supporting other good organizations, but they are not to be supported with tithes because God has told us where HIS TITHES are to go.

Mal. 3:10, "Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in MY HOUSE..." (AMP)

II. OUR DUTY IS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE CHURCH IS.

It is God's local churches (assemblies) of people to attend to His affairs in that community and the world.

III. OUR DUTY IS TO FAITHFULLY ATTEND CHURCH TO WORSHIP GOD.

To worship God, we must worship in spirit and in truth.

To worship God in spirit is to come with the right spirit and to worship in truth means that you worship the Lord God according to the teachings of the Bible.

IV. OUR DUTY IS TO FAITHFULLY SUPPORT OUR CHURCH WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS.

Now there are a lot of good organizations today that ask for our financial support, but if we want to support the one that Jesus started, we will support His Church. If we want to support the one that Jesus loves the most, then we support His Church.

When we realize that the local church was Jesus' idea, that He said, "I will build my church," then we realize the importance of helping Him build it. If we just think the church was started by people like other organizations have been started by people, then we might think there is nothing special about supporting the local church. There is, however, something special about supporting the Lord's church. It is so special that God promises us a special blessing.

Mal. 3:10-11, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, 'And try Me now in this,' says the Lord of hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor

shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,' says the Lord of hosts"; (NKJV)

V. YOUR DUTY REGARDING FALSE TEACHING IN THE CHURCH.

Not to join a church that is NOT a Bible believing preaching church and trying to be politically correct.

Stop attending a church that becomes politically correct rather than Biblically correct, and find one that is preaching and teaching Biblical correctness.

Make sure you do not become deceived by false teaching.

Col. 2:8-10, "Don't let others spoil your faith and joy with their philosophies, their wrong and shallow answers built on men's thoughts and ideas, instead of on what Christ has said. For in Christ there is all of God in a human body; so you have everything when you have Christ, and you are filled with God through your union with Christ. He is the highest Ruler, with authority over every other power." (TLB)

VI. YOU SHOULD BE BAPTIZED AND OBSERVE THE ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM LIKE THE BIBLE SAYS TO BE BAPTIZED.

A. Unfortunately, some denominations and churches choose to baptize people a convenient way instead of the Biblical way.

1. The Greek Word for Baptize means to immerse.
2. Baptism is a picture of what we believe about Jesus, that He died for our sins and came out of the grave alive.
3. Jesus showed us how we are to be baptized by being baptized Himself.

Matt. 3:13-17, "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized (immersed) by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, 'I need to be baptized (immersed) by You, and are You coming to me?' But Jesus answered and said to him, 'Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized (immersed), Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'" (NKJV)

B. The Bible gives us four reasons for being Baptized by immersion.

1. Number one, because Jesus was baptized that way.
2. It's the only way to symbolize a death, a burial, and a resurrection.
3. It's because that's what the word baptism means.

4. The fourth reason is because every single baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

Martin Luther was a great Christian man who founded the Lutheran Church. Here's what Martin Luther said: "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed as the word imports and the mystery signifies." That's Martin Luther.

How about this guy, John Calvin. John Calvin's another great Christian. Calvin founded all of the Presbyterian Churches or the Reform Churches or the Calvinist Churches. Here's what John Calvin says in Calvin's Institute: "The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse, to put under water. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

John Wesley, a great Christian leader, founded the Methodist Churches and all of the different kinds of Methodists. Wesley said this, "We're buried with Him (Christ) in baptism alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion. Just as Christ was raised from the dead, so we also will be raised by the same power. We'll rise again. This is what our very baptism represents."

The Catholic Encyclopedia says this: "The biblical form of baptism was unquestionably immersion." (In the Bible) "In the Catholic Church immersion seems to have prevailed until the 12th century."

VII. YOU SHOULD CELEBRATE COMMUNION OR THE LORD'S SUPPER WHEN YOUR CHURCH HAS IT.

Luke 22:14-20, "When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, 'With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.'" (NKJV)

A. Jesus Christ instituted the communion service as a remembrance of His death.

1. Christ Himself revealed the meaning of the bread (v. 19) "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
2. Christ Himself revealed the meaning of the cup (v. 20) "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."
 - a. Jesus identified the cup as His blood of the New Covenant. He simply meant that His blood establishes a new covenant with God.
 - b. The sacrifice of His life was to take the place of the sacrifice of animals.
 - c. Faith in Christ's blood and sacrifice is the way you are now to approach God.

Matt. 26:28, “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” (NKJV)

Eph. 1:7, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.” (NKJV)