

WHAT IS OUR DUTY TO THE LORD=S CHURCH?

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

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

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

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

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

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

V. YOUR DUTY REGARDING FALSE TEACHING IN THE CHURCH.

2 Peter 1:20 – 2 Peter 2:2, "For no prophecy recorded in Scripture was ever thought up by the prophet himself. It was the Holy Spirit within these godly men who gave them true messages from God. (2 Peter 2:1-2) But there were false prophets, too, in those days, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly tell their lies about God, turning against even their Master who bought them; but theirs will be a swift and terrible end. Many will follow their evil teaching that there is nothing wrong with sexual sin. And because of them Christ and his way will be scoffed at." (TLB)

A. How does false teaching get into the churches?

1. First, by Satan=s work.

1 Tim. 4:1-2, "But the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some in the church will turn away from Christ and become eager followers of teachers with devil-inspired ideas. These teachers will tell lies with straight faces and do it so often that their consciences won't even bother them." (TLB)

2. By people in the churches.

2 Tim. 4:3-4, "For there is going to come a time when people won't listen to the truth but will go around looking for teachers who will tell them just what they want to hear. They won't listen to what the Bible says but will blithely follow their own misguided ideas." (TLB)

Why?

a. They deny the truth so they can go ahead and live as they wish.

3. By a lack of Bible knowledge on the part of Christians in the churches.

Matt. 7:15, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.” (NKJV)

B. How do false teachers pull people away from the truth of God’s Word?

1. False teachers secretly introduce and teach destructive heresies (2 Peter.2:1).
2. They do not do it openly.
3. They do it deceptively, quietly, secretly, slipping in a false teaching or doctrine here and there.

C. There is one BIG obvious problem with false teaching: it is not the truth.

D. What are the obvious false teachings of false teachers?

1. Saying that Christ is not the Son of God.
2. Saying that the Bible is not the Word of God.
3. Saying that Jesus did not resurrect from the dead.
4. Saying that God is so loving that He would never condemn you to an eternity of Hell.
5. Saying that Jesus Christ is not the only way to be saved.
6. Saying that God’s love and grace are so inexhaustible that you are free to live and sin all you want to.
 - a. This false teaching gives people a false license to sin.

E. How do you really determine what a church believes when you are looking for a church?

1. By looking at what they say they believe in their written beliefs.
2. By looking at what is preached from the pulpit.
 - a. What is preached from the pulpit is what a church really believes.

F. What do you need to do to not be a part of false doctrine?

1. Don=t join a church unless it is doctrinally sound.
2. Don=t stay in a church that becomes doctrinally unsound.