

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

November 4, 2018

Membership or Fellowship

Several years ago I joined the Lion's Club. I paid my dues. I attended the luncheon meetings (*one of the main reasons for joining*). I talked shop with my fellow Lion's Club members. I even participated in some of the projects. Overall, I'd say I was a pretty good member of the Lion's Club.

On reflection, I now see that something was missing. I had membership but not fellowship with the Lion's Club. It wasn't the Lion's Club's fault. The Lion's Club is a good organization that fills a very worthwhile role in our society. I enjoyed attending the meetings and getting to know other people from my community and doing some of the civic projects together, but, the Lion's Club was never really in my heart. I connected on the surface, but never built any deep relationships with either the Club or its members. Consequently, I eventually stopped going to the meetings and stopped paying my dues. I dropped out of sight and it didn't even hurt.

But there was something missing. If I missed a meeting, it was not a big deal (*except that I missed lunch*). If something else "*came up*," that was OK. If others missed the meetings, that was also OK. Maybe I'd see them next week.

I am confident that there are many, many people who are with the church like I was with the Lion's Club: membership, but not fellowship. We often view fellowship as basically a social function - pot lucks, showers, parties, etc. We often reason that if a person eats with us, he has fellowship with us. And we're often contented with that understanding of fellowship. But that's not really what the Bible teaches fellowship is.

From the very beginning the church had fellowship. Sure, they ate some meals together, but their fellowship went much deeper than that. *"All the believers were together and had all things in common ... they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer"* (Acts 2:44, 42). Their lives became so intertwined that *"all the believers were one in heart and mind"* (Acts 4:32). They didn't just attend meetings, pay dues, and participate in occasional projects with other members. They were connected at the heart. To them, to have fellowship meant to become one in heart emotionally, physically, doctrinally, and spiritually - so much so that if anything severed that fellowship, it caused them pain. Church members come and go, but those who have true fellowship with Christ and each other are committed to each other forever.

— Joe Chesser

Commit to Submit

The word for "submit" (in some cases, "be subject") in the New Testament comes from a military term meaning to arrange troops under the command of a leader. The word is defined by Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon as, "to subject one's self, to yield to one's admonition or advice, to obey." Of course, this word is used in specific cases (as in the case of wives, servants, and young folks, cf. Eph. 5:22; 1 Pet. 2:18; 1 Pet. 5:5), but it is mostly used in the general sense for all Christians. Take note of what we are to submit and be subject to:

* We are to fully submit to God and His will
(James 4:7).

* We should submit to the government and its ordinances
(I Peter 2:13-14).

* We must submit to and encourage fellow Christians
(Ephesians 5:21).

* We are even to submit in ministering to others
(I Corinthians 16:15-16).

Christians, let's submit and commit ourselves to these thing,
knowing that a better world results from them.

— Edd Sterechi

Giving Ourselves

And this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

II Corinthians 8:5

The churches in Macedonia had outdone themselves beyond all expectation in giving and helping the Apostle Paul. How did they manage it without strength and wealth? They totally gave themselves to the Lord and to His ministry, and the rest took care of itself. When we find ourselves with no time or money for the Lord's work, we should look at our commitment to Him, instead of finding more excuses for ourselves. May our lives and actions inspire others.

— David Grubb

Don't Forget to Vote

Please pray those who advocate the murder of unborn children do not get elected.

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing: Toothbrushes and toothpaste, Microwave popcorn, Little Debbie treats, preferably brownies, fudge rounds, oatmeal pies, Gummy Bears, Jolly Rancher candy

Reading : Matthew 7: 15-23 ; Colossians 1: 3-12

NEXT WEEK : (November 11, 2018)

Song Leader : Greg

Scripture Reader : Ron

Table & Announcements : Bob

Prayer list :

Debbie Adams : The sister of Terry Perry had surgery on Friday afternoon to have breast cancer removed. It went very well and she was able to go home. After some recovery time she will have radiation treatments and long term medications.

Mike Nichols : Mike is now doing his physical therapy at home, but is disappointed in the slowness of his progress. He is not yet able to walk as he wants.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Ruby, Mary, Doris, Delores, Marge, Betty, Pete & Hazel,

Others with ongoing issues :

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease

John Cutillo : Major improvement after only 2 chemo infusion.

Debra Robinson : problematic chemo after breast cancer

Delaney West: Monitoring fragment of tumor left after surgery

Robin Shumard : Due to neurological issues which are secondary to diabetes, Robin is confined to a wheelchair.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Wayne : Ongoing issues related to stroke recovery

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law ..awaiting test result

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend is suffering from kidney failure due to diabetes. Stabilized, but remains an ongoing problem.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !

