

## A CHRISTIAN NEEDS OTHER CHRISTIANS

Hebrews 10:23-25

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** A Christian is a very different person from a non-Christian for he/she has been "reborn," belongs to the Lord, lives by faith, is consecrated to God, is guarded by the power of God and is called to serve the Lord God. A Christian has a very close relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, but there is another association/relationship that every Christian needs and that is to be with other Christians. A glowing ember if removed from the fire will soon cool off and die, while all the other embers close to each other continue to remain glowing and hot. Every Christian needs to be around other Christians.

### I. BEING A CHRISTIAN IS BEING PART OF THE FAMILY OF GOD

#### 1. The Bible has many examples of "togetherness:"

- Christians share a "fellowship" - Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 John 1:3, 7
- Christians are "fellows" -
  - "fellow citizens" - Ephesians 2:11-22
  - "fellow heirs" - Ephesians 3:6
  - "fellow workers" - Philippians 4:3
  - "fellow servants" - Colossians 1:7
  - "fellow soldiers" - Philippians 2:25
- Christians work together to extend the "right hand of fellowship" - Galatians 2:9
- Christians share together in the work and rewards of the Christian life.
- Christians are a type of "brotherhood" - 1 Peter 2:17
  - In the Lord Jesus, Christians enjoy a family relationship - Mark 3:31-35
  - Christians are the "house" or "family" of God - Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 3:15
  - Every Christian needs to have a "family" awareness about other Christians.
- Christians share a "membership" - 1 Corinthians 12:27
  - The Church of which a Christian is a part is Christ's "body" - Ephesians 1:22-23
  - Christians are "members of one another" - Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25
  - As all being members of one "body" there are shared responsibilities.
  - Although Christians are of the same "body" they are interdependent of each other - 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
    - Not all members have the same duties/functions - Romans 12:3-8
    - If the "body" is to grow (members), each member must contribute - Ephesians 4:16
  - There are no useless or unimportant members.

#### 2. There is the local Church "membership" concept.

- The "local" Church is different from the "universal" Church:
  - the "church" of Christ is the sum of all Christians - Matthew 16:18
  - a "church" of Christ locally is a specific group of Christians who function together as a congregation - Acts 14:23; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Romans 16:16
- A person is added by the Lord, Himself to the "universal" church upon his/her salvation - Acts 2:41, 47
- A Christian, after being saved (added to the "universal" church) should then join him/herself to a "local" church - Acts 9:26-28
  - There being local churches, God's Word indicates:
    - There is a divine purpose for the local church.
    - Every Christian should be a part of the local church.

- It is foreign to God's Word for one to become a Christian and NEVER become a part of a local church/congregation.
- Every Christian is obligated to participate in the life of a faithful congregation when possible.
  - Much of what Christians are to do is for the good of all in the local congregation -
    - 1 Corinthians 12:7
  - God's Word does command to withdraw from certain ones and that command is not optional.
    - 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6

## II. EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHER CHRISTIANS

### 1. There is an attitude a Christian must maintain:

- a concern for another - 1 Corinthians 12:25-26
- humility, lowliness of mind - Philippians 2:3
- a peaceful spirit - Romans 14:17-19
- appreciation for others and what they do - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3
- a willingness to cooperate and work with others - 1 Corinthians 12:21
  - Sometimes others can help a person do a better job than by doing it by him/herself.
  - "Coming together is a beginning - keeping together is progress - working together is success."
- friendliness, warmth - Philemon 1:7
- gentleness, meekness - Galatians 6:1
- forbearance, longsuffering and patience - Colossians 3:12, 13
- forgiveness - Colossians 3:13
- love - John 13:34-35

### 2. There are things that a Christian must do:

- He/she must identify as a member of a faithful congregation (become a member) - Acts 9:26
  - Many Christians "float around" and miss an important part of Christianity.
  - Many Christians are more like spectators, or permanent visitors, etc.
  - A Christian should place his/her membership in a Church with the intent of being an actual functioning member, not just having membership there.
  - Being a member of a local congregation involves making real commitments to that Church.
- He/she is to pray for other Christians, especially those of his/her own congregation -
  - Philippians 1:9-11
- He/she is to submit to the leaders of the congregation (pastor, deacons, etc) -
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13; Hebrews 13:7, 17
- He/she is to attend and participate in the congregational meetings - Hebrews 10:24-25
  - Private and family worship is one thing every Christian needs, but he/she should not neglect what God has for him/her in congregational worship and Bible study.
- Every part of Church assemblies/meetings are vital to the Christian.
  - The Lord's Supper - Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
  - Praying - Acts 2:42; 4:23-31; 12:12
  - Singing - Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16
  - Preaching and teaching - Acts 20:7
  - Giving as one has been prospered - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8, 9
- Church meetings/assemblies provide opportunities for being involved:
  - Help is needed in providing for the meeting (getting things ready)
  - Actual attendance is critical to the growth and health of the congregation (and self).

- Actually participating in the service/meeting according to one's ability.
  - Worship is not just a "spectator" thing.
  - It is not "how did the preacher do?" but "how did YOU (I) do?"
  - If one can do no more than listen, then listen in a manner that shows reverence and respect to God's Word - Acts 17:11
- Church meetings (assemblies) are not just a routine to perform, but it is a God-given provision for spiritual good and growth.
  - Fussing and questioning about this or that reveal an attitude of taking lightly the opportunity for Christians to be together and help one another.
  - God wants each Christian to give something in Church meetings and how one acts reveals whether he/she wants anything God has for him/her.
  - To minimize Church worship, meetings, assemblies is not good for either the congregation or the one complaining - Hebrews 10:24-25
- Contribute financially to the work of the congregation - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
- Engage personally and directly in the work of the congregation.
  - Evangelism - Acts 8:4
  - Edification - Romans 14:19
  - Benevolence - Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-35
- Help maintain unity in the congregation - John 17:20-23; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Romans 15:5-7; Ephesians 4:1-3
- Participate in the discipline of the congregation, both instructive and corrective - 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1-2; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15
- Extend courtesy and hospitality - Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9
- Find a position and fill it - Colossians 4:17; 2 Timothy 4:5

## CONCLUSION:

1. A great part of being a Christian comes from one's relationship with other Christians:
  - John was elated when he heard that others were walking in the truth - 3 John 3-4
  - Paul had much joy when he remembered his fellowship with others - Philippians 1:3-5
2. Being connected and active in a local church brings joy, but it is also being faithful to the Lord Jesus.
  - There are all the blessings the Lord provides for His "servants" in a local church.
  - There is encouragement from others in fulfilling one's responsibilities as a Christian.
3. If YOU are a Christian but are inactive in a local church or not even a member of a local church, get active, join a church and get to work for your Lord Jesus.

