

DUTIES OF THE CHURCH

Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Most Christians don't have the slightest idea of what the duties of their Church might be. All they know to do is to go to services on Sunday morning, maybe even attend Sunday School and a few go back that night for the evening service, if the Church has an evening service, and very, very few attend the mid-week service. Every Sunday it is the usual program with the exception of Easter and Christmas when special music/drama programs are presented. Just what "duties" does the real, true Church have?

I. THE CHURCH HAS THREE DUTIES OR OBLIGATIONS TO FULFILL

1. The first thing the Church is to do is to look toward the Lord Jesus Christ for His leadership.
2. The second thing the Church is to do is to examine itself constantly to see if it is in the faith.
 - Examine itself with a deep, sincere, severe criticism.
 - Be ready to quickly but cheerfully make any corrections.
 - Live in a permanent, perpetual attitude/state of penitence, seeking God with it's whole heart.
 - Constantly check its life and conduct against the Scriptures and if it has strayed, to bring its life back into line with the will of God.
3. The third thing the Church is to do is to know why it is here.
 - The Church must recognize its indebtedness to people (mankind).
 - The Church must take seriously every word of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. The task of the Church is to spread Christianity across the world and (very important) to make sure that the Christianity it spreads is the PURE New Testament Christianity.

II. CHRISTIANITY WILL ALWAYS REPRODUCE ITSELF AFTER ITS KIND

1. A worldly minded and unspiritual Church when doing "missions work" will produce a "Christianity" like that of itself.
 - The Church will transplant "itself," with its "spirituality," its "biblical viewpoint," its "customs, etc."
 - A weak, unspiritual Church will not transplant something stronger than itself in another country.
 - Everything, even a Church, will bring forth after its own kind.
2. Spreading the gospel to the uttermost parts of the world is NOT the first duty/obligation of the Church.
 - Remember what the Lord told His followers as He ascended? Go and WAIT...., "tarry ye..."
 - "Tarrying" had to come before the going.
 - What would have happened if the Disciples went out before Pentecost? Converts would have been just like the Disciples and what would things be like today?
3. **Matthew 23:15** - An example of what God thinks about when a Church with a weak, false kind of Christianity spreads the same to the world is what the religious people of Jesus' day was doing.
 - It is NOT wrong to share one's faith BUT if it is wrong, confused, weak, then it will only cause others to be wrong, confused and weak also.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christianity of today is far below the New Testament standard.
 - Worldliness is an accepted part of the Church.
 - The religious atmosphere is social instead of spiritual.
 - The art of worship has been lost.
 - Winning the lost has been decreasing.
 - Any mission activity is more of a publicity thing with celebrated athletes, professionals, etc. all done with modern advertising, etc.
 - Music in a service borders on sacrilege.
 - Nobody seems to care.
2. Our generation must have a better kind of Christianity or in a few years there will be missionaries from other parts of the world coming to our country to tell us about the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Our Churches need to get back to doing what they are supposed to be doing:
 - Putting the Lord Jesus Christ first in all things.
 - Be on constant guard to see that faith in the Lord Jesus is maintained.
 - Be constantly aware of what the Church is here for in the first place and that the Gospel is not going to be spread over the world by anybody else - it is the Church's duty/obligation.
 - Make sure that what is shared/spread is the Biblical, Scriptural truth.