

16. Christians Are to Be under the Watch Care and Authority of the Church -- "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation" (Hebrews 13:7).

Command-- "Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, as the matter of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

We Are a Fundamental Church.

We follow the doctrines, ordinances, government, and practices of the established New Testament church. 1) We believe that God inspired holy men of old to write the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. These Scriptures are without any error and all doctrines and practices of the church must conform to them. 2) We believe that Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary. He was born, therefore, without the sin curse passed through the fathers. 3) We Believe Jesus Christ is God, the Son, equal in every respect to the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is the creator of the universe, and He has the power to forgive sins and is to be worshipped to the glory of God the Father. 4) We believe that Jesus Christ is the only one qualified to atone for the sins of mankind. He died for our sins in His own body, and shed His blood that we might have the forgiveness of sins and obtain righteousness through faith in His atonement. 5) We believe that Jesus physically arose from the dead three days after His crucifixion.

We practice a regenerate church membership. In order to be a member a person must give evidence of being "born again." He must acknowledge that he is a sinner and believe that only the shed blood of Christ can cleanse him from that sin. He must acknowledge the five basic tenants of the faith as listed above. He must repent of his sins and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of his life and be obedient to the commands of Christ and surrender his will to Christ.

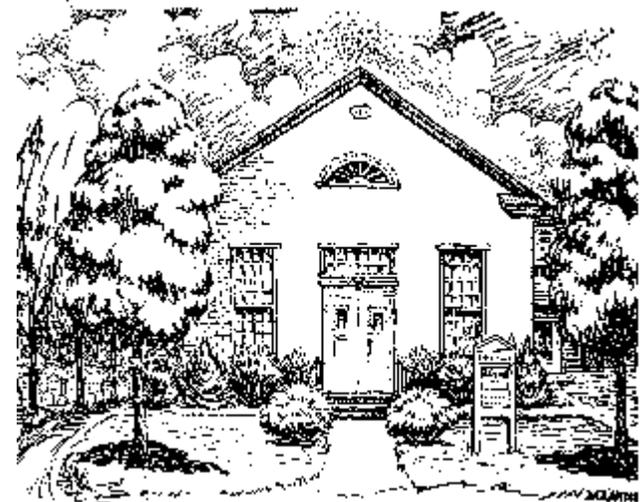
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The CORNERSTONE

BIBLICAL ANSWERS TO CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Must I Attend Church?



Cornerstone Booklets

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Must I Attend Church?

It pleased God, in His infinite wisdom, to establish the church and to have men and women carry out His work here on earth, providing for the spiritual and physical needs of mankind. Jesus said "the gates of hell shall not prevail against" the church (Matt. 16:18). The church, however, has always been under attack by Satan. Satan, who is the "father of lies" and our "adversary," is continually convincing many that they need not be involved in the Lord's work in the local church. When Christ established the church, he called out believers who had received Him as Lord and Savior. Jews and Gentiles were called to be saints, sanctified in Christ to continue His work through His church.

Each member is given personal opportunities for service and the ability (gifts and power) to carry out these responsibilities. Every Christian is commanded to be involved in the local church. God will judge their works as well as reward them for faithful service. Satan tries to convince many not to be active in the church so that they will be disobedient to the Lord's commands, become spiritually weak, suffer loss of eternal rewards, and hinder the Lord's work. Let us consider some of the reasons why God says that it is so important to attend and actively support a local, fundamental, Bible believing, evangelistic church.

1. Christ Established the Church -- Jesus Christ, the creator and sustainer of the earth, (Colossians 1:16,17) established the church. Jesus said to Peter "and I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter and upon this rock (Christ Himself) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18).
2. Christ: the Head of the Church -- "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church" (Eph. 5:23).
3. The Church Is the Body of Christ -- "And has put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that fills all in all" (Eph. 1:23).
4. The Church Is the Bride of Christ -- "For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (2Cor. 11:2).
5. Christ Loved the Church -- "Husbands love your wives even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25).
6. Christ Died for the Church -- "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost has made you

overseers, to feed the church of God, which he has purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).

7. Trained and Gifted Men Expound the Scriptures -- "And he gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11,12). No Christian can reach full spiritual maturity without the church.
8. A Place Where Spiritual Gifts Are Exercised -- "Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church" (1Cor. 14:12). God has given every Christian spiritual gifts for the work of the church and every member's gifts are needed by the body (1Cor. 12:14-25).
9. The Church Is a Place of Worship -- "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psalm's 122:1).
10. The Church Carries out Evangelism -- The local church carries out evangelistic programs to the lost within the community and also the world through missionaries. "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20).
11. A House of Prayer -- "Peter was therefore kept in prison but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him" (Acts 12:5).
12. A Place for Communion and Baptism -- "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about 3000 souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers" (Acts 2:41,42).
13. The Sunday School Trains Children -- The Sunday school and church reinforce the religious training of the home. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).
14. The Church Is a Light in a World of Darkness -- "Ye are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14).
15. A Place for Tithes and Offerings -- "bring ye all the tithes into the store house" (Malachi 3:10). Christians are to help financially support their pastor(s), their church, and its programs and missionaries.