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What The Church Owes The Preacher

Wyatt Sawyer

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WHAT THE CHURCH OWES THE PREACHER

INT: EPH. 4: 11-15. PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S EARTHLY MISSION: "Grow a Church".
OUR PURPOSE: To help Jesus Grow a great congregation at Central CofC.

LESSON INVOLVES :

Three basic subjects: 1. Church. Preacher. 3. Divine obligations.
So---we will study: 1. What IS the church of Christ? 2. What IS the preacher in the church of Christ? 3. What IS the relationship of the church of Christ to the church of Christ preacher?

I. WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST:

A. FIRST: a clarification of your SPEAKER. Vital to the total-acceptance of this SPIRITUAL-MESSAGE about DIVINE-THINGS. How vital? * Matt. 13:45-46 !!!!

B. BECAUSE: I AM NOT A liberal; NOT A MODERATE; NOT a Conservative!!! Why not?
Because: These stereotypes mean different things to different people -/
very ambiguous, misunderstood, misapplied and mis-directed, SO.....
"I insist that I strive to be a faithful N. T. Christian....nothing more,
nothing less, nothing different.

2. MY VIEW is well expressed in the following STATEMENT: "OUR AIM."

B. WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF OUR LORD?

"International Cof C/p!"

1. It is the UNIVERSAL compilation of all God's faithful-spiritual children - anywhere on the earth. In other words - all the saved souls of earth.

"THE WAY." ON

2. It is a composit (collection) of all the LOCAL congregations of the church of Christ. Each is autonomous -that is independent (governmentally) from all other congregations. Each maintains full-local-control of its business. It is the BODY OF CHRIST in a specific location or area. Actually: An Assembly of Believers.

3. It is the MEMBERS of the Family of God in the LOCAL CONGREGATIONS scattered around the world. These members serve the Lord UNDER the guidance and teachings and authority of CHRIST. They serve the Lord UNDER the direction and wisdom of ELDERS-authorized by the Holy Spirit. They serve Christ as INDIVIDUAL-MEMBERS of the Body of Christ ---with different abilities and talents..... with every member given the opportunity to serve harmoniously with all the other members ---at the Elders discretion. There is ONE BODY OF CHRIST authorized in the Scriptures. All the saved are in it. The church of Christ is NOT a Denomination.....a Sect.....nor a religious DIVISION of anything. Each local congregation is like every other congregation in the world ----- being of the SAME MIND AND SAME JUDGMENT ---AS all others.

4. CONGREGATIONS, under the oversight of their elders, may COOPERATE voluntarily with another congregation anywhere, any other CONGREGATIONS in other places locally, statewide, national or world-wide in worthwhile endeavors. This prevents the establishments of governing-conferences, synods or Conventions which would superceed the the FREEDOM of the local congregations.

WHAT THE CHURCH OWES THE PREACHER.

II. WHAT IS THE PREACHER IN THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

- A. Biblically defined: HERALD (messenger). PROCLAIMER. (speaker for Jesus)
EVANGELIST: messenger of glad tidings for Jesus. MINISTER (servant of Christ.)
MISSIONARY (neighborhood-city-county-state-nation-world. Anywhere. Everywhere!
- B. I & II TIM. & TITUS: THE PREACHER IS: a Preacher, Teacher, Instructor, exhorter, contender for the faith (gently), Reprove, Rebuke, Correct, Put in order things that be wanting, ordain elders, Fight the good fight of faith, Endure hardness as a good soldier of Christ, Partake of persecutions and afflictions, Be strong in prayer and Bible study.

His dominant role is STUDY AND PREACHING AND TEACHING.

As a faithful Christian he may: Visit the sick at home and in the hospitals, Visit newcomers and prospects as enhances the kingdom's growth.

The Preacher: assists the ELDERS as a liaison between the leadership and the membership. He is a Comforter and Guide in cases of need, individually, domestically and community-wise. In short, the Preacher is a faithful sower of the seed of the Kingdom / sower of love & goodwill everywhere.

III. WHAT THE CONGREGATION OWES THE PREACHER.

- A. Due HONOR and RESPECT for his PLACE. A man of God dedicated to the truth and righteousness.
- B. Due HONOR for his PURPOSE. To teach and live the highest standard of morality and spiritual living possible.
- C. RESPECT for his PRINCIPLES. When he teaches ONE church, honor it. When he teaches against dishonesty, drinking, dancing, drugs, immorality, gossip and lying--honor these truths. Stand up for Jesus. When he practices IMPARTIALITY, and refuses to join your social clique, honor him for it. With the Preacher it is "all for one, and one for all."
- D. RESPECT FOR HIS TIME. If he isn't properly self-disciplined and regimented to DO THE JOB RIGHT, he should never have been hired. If he IS regimented and maintains self-discipline, then he is a full-time minister preparing his sermons, lessons, special speeches and lectures; visiting the sick, and prospects and newcomers etc.etc, then he has little time for side-issues. THE PREACHER'S POLICY, as I've seen it, is to say "Yes" to everything he is asked to help with-----unless it interferes with MORE IMPORTANT Kingdom matters. ✓ Preacher's families, like all others, needs some PRICACY.
- E. HONOR & RESPECT FOR HIS WORD: He is allowed, of the Lord, to speak only the oracles (logos-the Truth-the Word) of God. I Pet. 4:11. Honor him by always studying also for yourself, to see that these things are so. Acts 17:11.

CONCLUSION: Obviously any GROUP that does anything successfully and worthwhile must practice good sportsmanship and team-work. In Biblical terms that would mean: "Christians must have the humble-spirit of Christ and cooperate with with each other to the very best of our ability!!!!

INV: The greatest thing in the world to be, is a Christian! He is promised The Abundant Life NOW and the unbelievably-wonderful Abundant Life in Heaven HEREAFTER. *Look ahead!*

I hope everyone present here today IS a Christian and have the hope of all these great blessings from the Lord. If not, why not COME to Jesus today to make your calling and election sure for NOW and FOREVER.