

Churches Grow When Members Work

LESSON FOUR - THE IDEAL CHURCH MEMBER

TEXT: Rom. 16:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. THE WORD "CHURCH" USED TWO WAYS, UNIVERSAL AND LOCAL.
- B. PHOEBE, FROM THE SOUND OF IT, WAS THE IDEAL MEMBER.
- C. HOW WOULD WE CHARACTERIZE THE IDEAL MEMBER TODAY? DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT IDEA?

I. ANSWER IS SEEN IN NECESSARY ELEMENTS FOR A LOCAL CHURCH.

- A. AGREEMENT TO WORK TOGETHER.
- B. COMMON OVERSIGHT OR SUPERVISION.
- C. COMMON GOALS AND PURPOSES (**PHIL. 1:27**).
- D. POOLING OF ACTION (TALENTS) & RESOURCES TO ACCOMPLISH WORK (**Eph. 4:15-16**).
- E. THE IDEAL MEMBER BELIEVES THIS AND BEHAVES IN THE PROPER WAY.

- 1. Rather than say "you folks" or "they," he says "we."
- 2. He sees that he has a part to play and that he is vital(**1 Cor. 12:22**).
- 3. The church will be vital to him, reflected in commitment (**Mat. 12:46-50**).

- F. "ATTITUDE" & "ACTION" IMPORTANT. **PROPER MOTIVE** WILL BE INVOLVED.

II. WHAT DOES THE PROPER ATTITUDE INVOLVE? WHAT ACTION RESULTS?

- A. **FIRST** RESULT - PRESENCE.

- 1. Desire to be with Jesus & fellows(**Acts 2:42ff.; Rom. 12:10**).
- 2. Beneficial to the church(**Heb. 10:24-25**).

- B. **SECOND** RESULT - A DESIRE TO GROW AND KNOW.

- 1. He will study(**2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:18; 1 Pet. 1:1-2**).
- 2. He will apply these things to himself(**1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 3:14**).
- 3. He will teach others(**Heb. 5:12; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 3:15**).
- 4. He will support others in their efforts to teach(**Gal. 6:6**).

- C. **THIRD** RESULT - HE WILL KEEP HIMSELF UNSPOTTED(**James 1:27**).

- 1. Timothy warned(**1 Tim. 4:16, 12; 2 Tim. 2:22**).
- 2. Paul was careful(**1 Cor. 9:25-27**).
- 3. Beneficial to the church:
 - a. the effect on outsiders(**Titus 2:6-8; 1 Pet. 2:11-12**).
 - b. an example to members(**1 Tim. 4:12**).

- D. **FOURTH** RESULT - HE WILL CONTRIBUTE ACCORDING TO HIS TALENT (**Rom. 12:3-8**).

- 1. The church is a functioning body with many members(**vs. 4-5**).
- 2. We need to keep our talent in perspective(**vs. 3; 1 Cor. 12:22**).
- 3. We need to exercise our abilities(**vs. 6-8**).
- 4. But give God the glory(**1 Pet. 4:11**).
- 5. If each will do this the church will prosper(**Eph. 4:16**).

III. WE SHOULD STRIVE FOR THE IDEAL.

- A. NO ONE IS PERFECT ON THIS SCORE.

- 1. Paul was not(**Phil. 3:12a, 13a**).
- 2. We don't measure close to him! Not even the best of us.

- B. OUR DUTY IS TO STRIVE TOWARD PERFECTION.

- 1. Paul's example(**Phil. 3:12b-14**).
- 2. Spiritually oriented people will follow(**Phil. 3:15-16**).
- 3. In the meantime they will do their best(**Phil. 3:16**).

CONCLUSION: All can do better. Our souls need it, the church depends on it.