

Our Responsibilities as Part of Christ's Church

II Corinthians 6:19-20

What does it mean to each of us, individually, that we are part of Christ's CHURCH? That is the challenge to each of us today—we should become all that God wants us to be in His Church. To summarize my vision for CBC that I shared with the elders ever since we began to talk about our ministry here it would be:

“100% Employment—Every Member in Ministry”.

Are you functioning as a healthy member of Christ's church this evening?

For just a moment remember that there are no less than twelve metaphors in God's Word for the Church¹. Each metaphor is a powerful way for us to see how God looks upon us who are Christ's church.

God uses these metaphors to help us understand our responsibilities as believers. He wants us to apply each of the truths revealed by these descriptions of the church into our daily lives. We often need to be reminded about:

Our Responsibilities to Christ's Church

We as members of Christ's church are:

1. His TEMPLE: Knowing that God looks on Christ's church as **God's new temple**—*should increase our awareness of God's very presence dwelling in our midst as we meet.*

*I Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built **up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

I am Christ's Temple. I should want to grow in my awareness of living in His Holy Presence. That is what happens as we read His Word if we bow first in adoration and whisper a prayer of seeking Him.

¹ Adapted from Wayne Grudem; *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994, p. 858.

Have you personally sought your God, this week, in His Word? If so say **"Yes"** aloud right now! God wants us 100% employed in His Temple.

2. His PRIEST: Knowing that God looks on Christ's church as **a priesthood**—*should help us to see more clearly the delight God has in the sacrifices of praise and good deeds that we offer to Him.*

Hebrews 13:15-16 Therefore by Him let us continually **offer the sacrifice** of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

I am part of Christ's Priesthood. I should want to delight in offering the sacrifices He desires. Have you thanked God for eyes to see with, ears to hear with, feet that walk, a mind that still functions? Offer Him the sacrifice of thanks for sins forever gone, of hope that it endless, of joy that never runs out. And then pick someone to "do good and to share" with.

We all need to be spiritual Boy Scouts, each doing a "good deed" for others each week. And then, each day, and then all day long. God wants us 100% employed as His Priests.

3. His RELATIVE: Knowing that God looks on Christ's church as **a family**—*should increase our love and fellowship with one another.*

I Timothy 5:1-2 *Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as **a father**, younger men **as brothers**, 2 older women **as mothers**, younger women **as sisters**, with all purity.*

I am Christ's Relative. I should want to increase my love and fellowship with those in Christ who are my true family.

Try writing down a name each week of one person, and asking them how to encourage them. Then pray for that area all week long, and look for them next week and find out what God did in their lives. Can you imagine coming each week and looking for people you've prayed for and seeing people looking for you?

That is what we need to be employed in doing. God wants to see us having 100% employment in serving and encouraging our spiritual relatives.