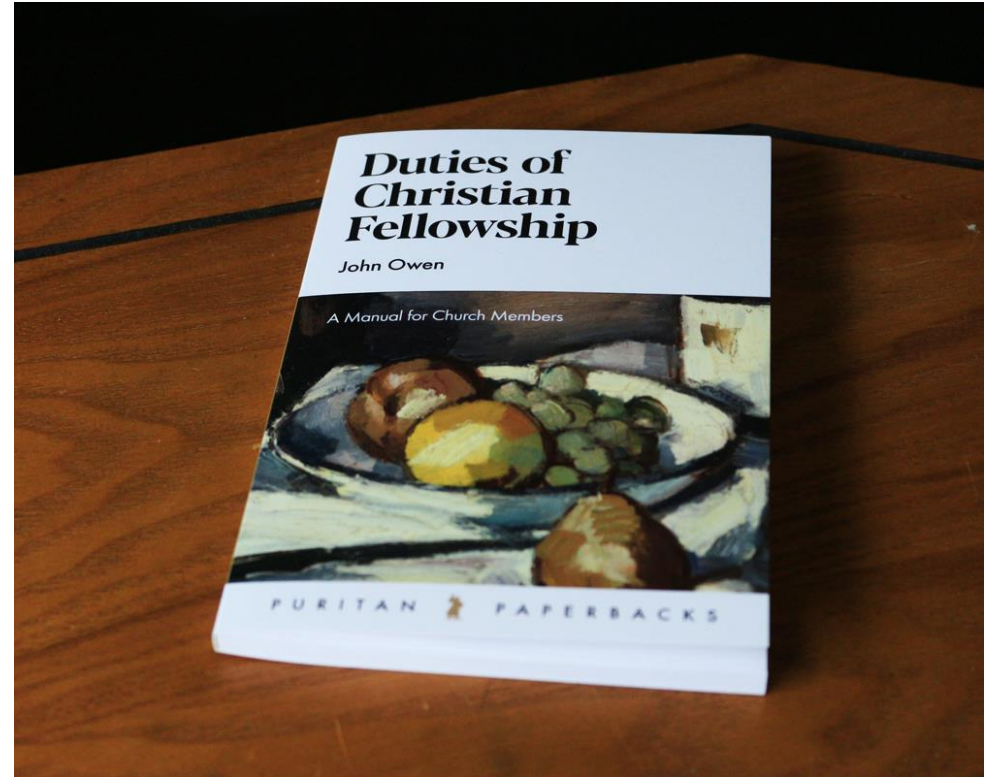
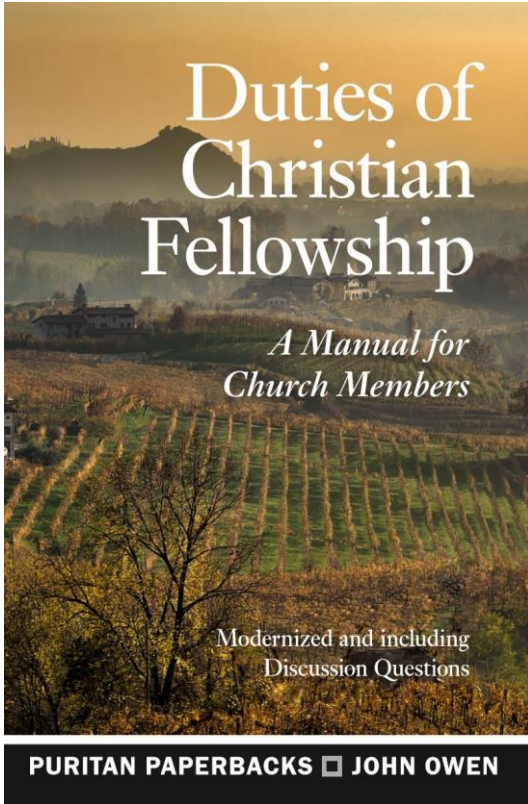


The Unity of the Local Church

With respect to other believers

Introduction: Review

- Union with Christ
- Local Church Unity
 - Toward pastors
 - Dispense the means of grace
 - By following our pastors
 - Toward one another
 - Love one another



Introduction

Introduction: Outline

- A Brief Summary of Prayer
- Praying for your Local Church
- Praying for one another in difficulty

Main Point

- Prayer preserves unity

Summary of Prayer

- Thanksgiving, praise, lament, petition, etc.
- Does not change God
- Changes us

Local Church

- **Commanded**
- **Ephesians 6:18, “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints”**

Local Church

- Commanded
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17, “pray without ceasing”

Local Church

- Commanded
- 1 Timothy 2:8, “I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting”

Local Church

- Commanded

- Psalm 122:6-9,

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
‘May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls,
Prosperity within your palaces.’
For the sake of my brethren and companions,
I will now say, ‘Peace be within you.’
Because of the house of the LORD our God
I will seek your good.”

Local Church

- Commmanded

- Isaiah 62:6-7,

I have set watchmen on your walls, O
Jerusalem;

They shall never hold their peace day
or night.

You who make mention of the LORD,
do not keep silent,

And give Him no rest till He establishes
And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in
the earth.

Local Church

- Modeled
- Philippians 1:4-5, “always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,”

Local Church

- Modeled
- Romans 1:9-10, “For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.”

Local Church

- Modeled
- Acts 12:5, “Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.”

Local Church

- Modeled
- Colossians 4:12, “Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”

Local Church

- Encouraged
- God delights to hear our prayers
- Psalm 50:15,
“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me”

Local Church

- If for the world then certainly for one another
- Matthew 5:44, “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you”

Local Church

- If for the world then certainly for one another
- • Jeremiah 29:7, “And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace.”

Prayer preserves the unity of the local church

- We pray for the church
- We pray for one another in distress

One Another

- **Commanded and Modeled**
- **Acts 12:5, 7, 12**

One Another

- Commanded and Modeled
- Romans 12:15, “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”

One Another

- Commanded and Modeled
- 1 Corinthians 12:26-27, “And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”

One Another

- Commanded and Modeled
- 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2, “Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.”

One Another

- Natural part of being a Christian
- Providential suffering is an opportunity for prayer

Conclusion

- Prayer preserves unity
- Prayer glorifies God
- Pray with God's people
- Questions