

The Local Church And You

Acts 9:26-28

Introduction:

- A. Few fully appreciate the privileges of church membership.
 - 1. Membership in the universal church. (Heb. 12:18-24)
 - 2. Membership in the local church (Acts 9:27-28).
- B. Few fully appreciate their *responsibilities* to local church & its resp. to them.

Discussion:

I. What You Have a Right to Expect from the Local Church.

- A. Spiritual edification (Eph. 4:15-16).
 - 1. Scriptural teaching (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 4:1-5).
 - 2. Plain teaching. (1 Cor. 14:4,5).
- B. Atmosphere for edification.
 - 1. Orderliness (cf. 1 Cor. 14:26-40)
 - 2. Facilities conducive to edification.
- C. Support, correction, comfort as needed (1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6; Heb 10:24,25)
- D. Protection from adverse forces.
 - 1. False doctrine (Tit. 1:9-14).
 - 2. Ungodly influence (Acts 9:26,27; 1 Cor. 5:6-7; Rom. 16:17,18).
- E. Financial help if no other means of support. (cf. Acts 6; 1 Tim. 5:16).
- F. Not social and/or recreational activities (1 Cor. 11:22,34).

II. What the Local Church Has a Right to Expect from You.

- A. Your membership in it. (Acts 9:26,27; cf. Dangers of “floating”).
- B. Your support of it.
 - 1. With your attendance (Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25)
 - 2. With your words of encouragement. (Heb. 10:25 NIV)
 - 3. With your donations (1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 9:7; Acts 11:29)
 - 4. With your talents (Eph 4:16; Rom. 12:9)
- C. Your submission to its elder/overseers. (1 Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:17).
- D. Your recognition of its human element — requires long-suffering and correction. (cf. Eph. 4:1-3)

Conclusion:

- A. Obey gospel, be added to church (universal).
- B. Join self to local church.
 - 1. Fulfill your responsibilities to it.
 - 2. Help it fulfill its responsibilities to you and others.