What a Congregation Owes Itself
Eph. 4:15,16

Introduction:
A. Good to think of what congregation owes others.
   1. Gospel to all.
   2. Relief of needy.
B. Good to think of obligations of congregation to itself.

Discussion:
I. Self-Examination. (cf. 2 Cor. 13:5).
   A. Notice the verse in context.
   B. Standard of examination – "the faith" or gospel. (Rom. 1:16; Gal. 1:23).
   C. To see if we are within "the faith".
      1. Congregationally.
      2. Individually. (cf. 1 Tim. 5:8).
II. Self-Edification (Eph. 4:16).
   A. Through Scriptural Education.
      1. Teaching and preaching. (2 Tim. 4:1-5).
      2. Study and searching. (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11)
   B. Through Scriptural Participation.
      1. In the worship of the church. (1 Cor. 14:15-17,30-31,40).
      2. In the work of the church. (Eph. 4:16).
      3. In all spiritual exercise - learn by doing. (Heb. 5:12-14).
      2. By converting the erring. (Jas. 5:19,20 KJV)
   D. Through Scriptural Organization. (Tit. 1:5; Acts 14:23)
         a. H. S. makes them like it makes Christians through the word.
         b. H. S. gave instruction through Paul as to qualifications, selection and appointment of each.
      2. Scripturally organized congregations are more efficient.
         a. Distribution of the work load (Acts 6:2-4).
         b. Places someone in charge - “Everybody's business is nobody's business.”
            (1) Elders with supervising experience over whole congregation (1 Tim. 3:4, 5)
            (2) Deacons with supervising experience over certain works (1 Tim 3:12)
         c. Avoids a vacuum often filled by unscriptural and unqualified make-shift leadership.
III. Self-Purification
   A. Individually (cf. 1 Tim. 5:22; 2 Cor. 6:17).
   B. Congregationally
      3. By putting away certain ones. (1 Cor. 5:6-7,13; Tit. 3:10).

Conclusion:
A. Are we really examining ourselves?
B. Are we really edifying ourselves?
C. Are we really purifying ourselves?