



FCS1-3-08: Congregational Responsibility and Accountability

The Body of Christ is self-sufficient, through the Holy Spirit, to its loving edification and perpetual growth.

The Congregation

The congregation (assembly of believers) is made up of various offices and believers to promote the Kingdom of God. Established congregations have a more defined support system and have more resources of edification than a smaller congregation. Both established and smaller congregations have many things in common, they all represent the Body of Christ (the church) and are effective in bringing believers into it.

Acts 2:40-47 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, **Save yourselves** from this untoward generation. 41 Then **they that gladly received** his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. 42 And they **continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship**, and in **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**. 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. 44 And all that believed **were together**, and had **all things common**; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and **parted them to all men**, as every man had need. 46 And they, **continuing daily with one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread **from house to house**, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, 47 **Praising God**, and **having favour** with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church daily** such as should be saved.

Matthew 18:19-20 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it **shall be done for them** of my Father which is in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together **in my name**, there **am I in the midst** of them.

1 Corinthians 16:19-20 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the **church that is in their house**. 20 All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss.

Parishioner Responsibilities

The word parishioner, is not used in the Bible. With respect to Christian Fellowship Church Ministries International, the title parishioner is interchangeable with a believer that regularly attends a certain assembly of believers. This purpose and placement into the Body of Christ comes with subjection to the Biblical eldership offices. Which elders (and assembly) a believer is subject unto is a determining factor towards where they contribute and are nurtured therein. Every Christian is called into the Body of Christ; every Christian gives account unto God; every Christian has an elder over them that God holds to account for the status of their souls. For most, the assembly (organization) where they were baptized into Christ is where they continue to grow in Christ.

As a member of the Body of Christ, the parishioner has certain responsibilities to the body much like any part of the human body has purpose and function. God has a purpose and a ministerial work for each member. Not everyone in the body carries the same purpose or function such as of the eyes, or of the ears; but every part of that body is essential to the overall working of the body. Yet, God has placed the members of the

body together as it has pleased Him. This is one of the many reasons that a believer should continue within the church (assembly) where God originally placed them.

There are common purposes and functions within the Body of Christ that every member is responsible for:

Some of the basic responsibilities of every part of the Body of Christ:

- * To love one another and offer the same care on for another.
- * Accomplishing their purpose and function.
- * To edify the Body of Christ where and when they have opportunity.
- * To be spiritually healthy so that the rest of the body may be healthy too.

Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but **to love one another**: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 **Charity never faileth**: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there betongues*, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

Colossians 4:17 And say to Archippus, **Take heed to the ministry** which thou hast received in the Lord, **that thou fulfil it**.

1 Corinthians 9:16-27 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

17 For **if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward**: but if against my will, a dispensation *of the gospel* is committed unto me. 18 What is my reward then? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel. 19 For though I be free from all *men*, yet have **I made myself servant unto all**, that I might gain the more.

20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; 21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. 22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: **I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some**. 23 And this **I do for the gospel's sake**, that I might be partaker thereof with *you*. 24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for **the mastery is temperate in all things**. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Galatians 6:9-10 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 As we have therefore **opportunity**, let us do good unto all *men*, **especially** unto them who are of the household of faith.



2 Corinthians 9:5-7 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as *a matter of* bounty, and not as *of* covetousness. 6 But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man **according as he purposeth in his heart**, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Luke 21:34-36 And **take heed to yourselves**, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and *so that* day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 **Watch ye therefore, and pray always**, that ye may be all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

The parts of the Body of Christ within the congregation are dependent on each part doing their designed function and accomplishing their purpose. If any part of the body starts to fail in their duties, the whole body suffers. The body also suffers when a parishioner leaves an assembly for selfish reasons.

Support and Edification

For the Christian faith, love is the central theme. It must be the underlying motivation for the support and edification of its body members, or it is no different than a social club or any other organization. When the love of God is the motivation driving the supporting of one another, then the ministry becomes spiritually effective. When the love of God is the motivation behind all edification and admonishment, then the disciplines of the doctrine of Christ are lived in a Godly passion.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; **as I have loved you**, that ye also **love one another**. 35 By this shall all *men* know that **ye are my disciples**, if ye have love one to another.

Ephesians 4:15-16 But speaking the **truth in love**, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that **which every joint supplieth**, according to the **effectual working** in the measure of every part, **maketh** increase of the body unto the **edifying of itself in love**.

Romans 12:9-13 *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.* 10 *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;* 11 *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;* 12 *Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;* 13 **Distributing to the necessity of saints**; given to **hospitality**.

Parishioners and Disciples

Like within the human body, within the congregation of believers there are various organs and systems that are all designed for the efficient operation and greater good of the body. Within the Body of Christ, a believer grows in responsibilities and accountabilities as it pertains their own edification and perpetual growth. Their personal and spiritual growth makes the Body of Christ more effective and stronger. In

the Body of Christ, a believer should be growing until the day they pass from this life unto the next. Some may grow faster than others within their personal calling, and some may only grow in the knowledge of Christ while not growing into leadership positions. All members of the body are important and needful.

1 Corinthians 12:11-27 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. 12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

The parishioner is considered to be those that attend the fellowship and the worship. They are then considered an active part of the congregation when they are actively participating. A disciple is a parishioner that is determined to grow in Christ by applying the doctrine of Christ into their lives in addition to their supportive attendance. A Christian (Christ-like person) should always be growing in the spirit and truth of Jesus Christ. A disciple of Christ should always be in submission and give account unto the elders of the assembly for which they are an effective part.

1 Peter 2:1-5 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Accountabilities

From the point-of-view of the parishioner, those that are elders (those that the parishioner submit themselves unto) develop a spiritual bond with them in Godly love. The elders nurture a strong relationship with the parishioner by effective

communications and example (not merely because they are set over the flock). The parishioner should desire to submit their spiritual matters unto their elders, and not because they are made to feel that they must.

1 Peter 5:1-6 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof, not by constraint*, but willingly; **not for filthy lucre**, but of a ready mind; 3 **Neither as being lords over God's heritage**, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

5 Likewise, ye younger, **submit yourselves unto the elder**. Yea, **all of you be subject one to another**, and be **clothed with humility**: for God resisteth the proud, and **giveth grace to the humble**. 6 Humble yourselves **therefore** under the mighty hand of God, that **he may exalt you in due time**:

Hebrews 13:17 **Obey them** that have the **rule** over you, and **submit** yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, **that they may do it with joy**, and not with grief: for that *is unprofitable for you*.

Who gives account unto whom

Everyone gives account to someone. Within Christian Fellowship Church Ministries International, there is a healthy accountability system where every part of ministry may communicate and account for their stewardship of the resources within their care.

The Board of Elders are spiritually accountable to Christ for the overall legal and administrative resources of the international ministry as it pertains to the national, state, and local governments concerning the administrations of the ministry.

The International Elders oversee the international spiritual operations of the ministry. They are accountable to Christ (and the Board of Elders in certain administrations).

The Congregational Elders give account to the International Elders.

** The administration of spiritual and natural resources of the congregation are the accountability of Congregational Elders. These elders are responsible for the effective working of the ministry they oversee. These include the offices and departments such as preaching and teaching, financial and other administrative operations.*

The Parishioner (in this example: the believer that has not yet grown into leadership responsibilities, but is still a vital part of the church) gives account to their leadership (elders and deacons) for their spiritual growth within: the doctrine of Christ, the communication of their spiritual health, and their contributions of finances, resources, and time.

Question 1

As described in Acts 2:40-47, some ways the congregation is accountable to God include:

- To continue in fellowship with the members of the body.
- To share the word of God from house to house.
- To help meet the needs of every member of the body.
- To study many different doctrines.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

Question 2

As described in Matthew 18:19-20, Jesus will be in the midst when two or three are gathered in his name.

- True
- False

True/False

Question 3

As described in John 13:34-35, all men will know us by our love one to another.

- True
- False

True/False

Question 4

As described in Ephesians 4:15-16, what will be true when the body is edified?

- The body will edify itself in love.
- There will be disorganization in the body.
- Every joint will supply.
- The body will be fitly joined together.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

Question 5

As described in Romans 12:9-13, what are signs that the parts of the body are being supported?

- There will be much slothfulness in business.
- The members will be instant in prayer.
- The members will be fervent in spirit
- Brotherly love will abound.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

Question 6

As described in 1 Corinthians 12:11-27, what is true about the body of Christ?

- Those that are less honorable we bestow more honor.
- God has set the members to please him.
- It is beneficial to have schisms in the body.
- When one member suffers all the members suffer.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

Question 7

As described in 1 Peter 2:1-5, when we are chosen of God and precious, we will also desire to:

- Be a holy priesthood.
- Be a lively stone.
- Be a spiritual house.
- Offer up sacrifices to devils.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

Question 8

As described in Romans 13:8, if we love one another, we hath fulfilled the law.

- True
- False

True/False

Question 9

As described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, what are examples of charity?

- It enviyeth.
- It never faileth.
- It hopeth all things.
- It thinketh no evil.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

Question 10

As described in Colossians 4:17, we should also take heed to the ministry we have received, and fulfill it.

- True
- False

True/False

Question 11

As described in 1 Corinthians 9:16-27, the Apostle Paul ran the race to obtain a:

- A corruptible crown.
- A visit to Sodom and Gomorrah.
- A large bank account.
- An incorruptible crown.

Multiple choice (Unique answer)

Question 12

As described in Galatians 6:9-10, we will reap a great reward if we faint.

- True
- False
- True/False

Question 13

As described in 2 Corinthians 9:5-7, what is true of God's perspective on giving?

- We will reap what we sow.
- It is good to covet.
- We must not give grudgingly.
- We must be a cheerful giver.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

Question 14

As described in Luke 21:34-36, why must we always watch and pray?

- So our lives will be burdened with the cares of this life.
- So our hearts will not be overcome with drunkeness.
- So we will be able to escape the snare.
- So we will be worthy to stand before the Son of man.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)



www.MyChristianFellowship.org

Evangelize, Educate, Equip:
*Providing Christian Fellowship
And Spiritual Support Worldwide*

To be completed by the student

Please enter your first name below:

Please enter your last name below:

Please enter your email address below:

Please enter your comments and feedback below, for the person that will review your lesson:

[To Print, click here](#)

[To Save, click here](#)

[To Email, click here](#)

To be completed by the mentor

Comments from the person reviewing your lesson to student:

Successfully completed:

Yes

Not yet