



# Responsibilities We have.

There are many blessings and privileges that we are given as adopted children of God. Alongside of these blessings God also gives us certain responsibilities that we have as His people and as His church. These responsibilities are not negotiable and are part of the

calling God has for our lives. These responsibilities help define our relationship with God and give us a clear framework of how to develop a healthy relationship with Him. If we love Jesus, these duties will not seem a burden, but a opportunity to prove our love for Him and bring honour to His name.

**Discuss -** (In group / or small groups)

**Q1)** What do you think the church should be and do?

**Q2)** Why do you think God gives us different responsibilities to fulfil?

**Q3)** What do you think happens / or not, if we fulfil / not fulfil these responsibilities ?

## **Responsibility 1 – Love God and seek His will for our lives and church!**

Scripture tells us that our lives and the life of the church is under the Lordship of Christ. When we give our lives to Jesus we no longer belong to ourselves, but to God. As a result of this we are under His authority and our lives are to be used as He sees fit. God has a perfect plan for our lives and the church and we are responsible to discern that plan and obey it. As a church we do this through the Church Meeting. This is a place where we seek God's face, with the intention of discerning His will, that the local church's ministry might fit in directly with the plan that God has for it. Being a Christian is not about getting your own way in the different situations of life, but it is about discerning God's plan and being obedient to it. Our daily decisions as individual's and as a church needs to be submitted to the direction and Lordship of Jesus Christ. Jeremiah 29 v 11, Romans 12 v 1-2.

## **Responsibility 2 - Worship God in Spirit and in Truth.**

As a Christian, both in the church and daily in our lives, we are called to worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth. Worship for a Christian is about humbling ourselves before God and bringing to Him an offering of praise, love, devotion and thanksgiving. As we worship God, scripture makes it clear that God inhabits the praises of His people. True worship is not about going through the same ritual of manmade liturgy, but is led by the spirit and is a spontaneous and disciplined expression of devotion to God, expressed from the individual in both a private and corporate setting. True worship is a lifestyle, not a single event that happens once a week.

## **Responsibility 3 – Love and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ.**

It cannot be overemphasised how important our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ are. Much of the teaching of the New Testament is directed at both the importance and the practice of us meeting together as a body of believers. We are challenged NOT to forsake meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but learn to build each other up, encourage each other and spur each other on to love and good works in Christ. Real love for Jesus is practically expressed by real love for His people and a commitment to persevere in our relationships with one another. Being part of a church is not always easy. There are good and bad times, times when people can hurt you and misunderstand you, however a Godly desire, is to forgive, love, encourage and persevere in our relationship with the church. Hebrews 10 v 19- 25, Ephesians 4 v 25 – 32, Colossians 3 v 12 – 14.

## **Responsibility 4 – Witness to Jesus**

One of the last commands that Jesus gave us, was to witness to Him both in words and actions. One of the defining hallmarks of the true church of Jesus Christ, is that it is very much a mission minded reality. At the heart of the church is a real and visible desire to witness to the Lord and Saviour who is Jesus Christ. The call to witness is given both to the life of the individual and the life of the church. Any Church that does not actively witness to Christ is failing to fulfil one of the core principles of why the church has been called into existence. We are in every sense ambassadors of Christ in the world today bringing His life changing and prophetic message to the world today. It is clear not many of us are called to be evangelists, BUT everyone of us IS called to be His witness in our daily lives. Matthew 28 v 18 – 20, Acts 1 v 7– 8, 2 Corinthians 5 v 17 –20.

## **Responsibility 5 – Use gifts and skills in service to God**

As the people of God, not only has God called us to salvation, but He has equipped us to fulfil works of service that He has prepared in advance for us to do, for His glory. Ephesians 2 v 8 – 10.

## **Responsibility 6 – Give the First-fruits of your finances to God -(Tithe)**

Being a Christian and part of the church of Christ is both a rewarding and challenging experience. There is no doubt that to truly please the Lord in our lives, costs us much and only our best will do. Both in the Old and the New Testament there is clear teaching that we must honour God with not only our words and actions but with our finances as well. One of the ways we do this is by bringing the first fruits of our finances to God and giving it to His church. As part of us recognising that everything we have has been given to us by God, we are challenged to bring 10% of our income to the Lord and give it to the church as a love offering. This tithe must be the first cut of our income and be the best we have to offer. Scripture links the generous giving of God's people to the release of divine blessing, in return. Malachi 3 v 6 – 10, 2 Corinthians 9 v 6 – 15.

