

Responsibilities We Have to the Church

(Matthew 20:1-16)

- Introduction:
1. Every organization entails responsibilities...ills. of my clubhouse.
 2. Ills. of getting my picture taken in all the school groups my senior year.
 2. Sadly, there are people who may have their picture in a directory, that have not raised a finger to promote the cause of Christ and his Kingdom.
 3. The fact is, we have been lulled into believing a lie that lukewarmness will get us to heaven (Rev. 3:16).
 4. In fact, knowing what we know about the church, I don't understand how we can have little investment and interest in it.
 - a. Ills. of A.J. Cronin and my dad.
 - b. (Ephesians 5:25; Acts 20:28).
 5. So, what responsibilities do we have to the church?
 6. The answer to that question is to do whatever we can to advance its borders.

I. We Can Advance Its Borders Through Our Presence

- A. I'm not simply talking about attendance, but what we are to do while attending.
- B. (Hebrews 10:24-25) Ills. of provoking my sister.
- C. Bearing one another's burdens (Galatians 6:1-2).
- D. Growing in a knowledge of God's word (2 Peter 3:18).
- E. We also need elders to stop acquiescing to the weakest members of the church.
 1. Their job is not to pacify the weak.
 2. Their job is to strengthen the weak.

II. We Can Advance It's Borders Through Our Contribution

- A. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
- B. Ills. of man who died in sin because of money.
- C. We bear fruit through the work of others by giving (Philippians 4:17).
- D. Our interest follows our investment.

III. We Can Advance Its Borders by Defending It

- A. (Philippians 1:17).
- B. (Mark 8:38).

IV. We Can Advance Its Borders by Seeking Peace

- A. (Matthew 5:9; Romans 14:19; Hebrews 12:14).
- B. (John 17:20-21).
- C. (Ephesians 4:1-6).

- Conclusion:
1. Brethren, we have work to do. Jesus needs us to do it (Ephesians 1:22-23), and our souls and the souls of others depend upon it.