

Daily Bible Study

“Church Basics” Part ~ 3

Selected Scripture

May 8 – May 14, 2011

THE LORD'S DAY –This week, we return to our small mini-series which has been taken from Joshua Harris’ book entitled “*Stop Dating The Church –Fall In Love With The Family Of God*”. This following “profile of commitment” should be seen in the life of every believer regarding the local church. **1.You join.** The Bible teaches accountability to church and church leaders in order for them to know who it is they are shepherding. In the book of Acts we read that people were “*added to the church*”. Scripture also gives numbers to indicate the leaders knew who was in the church and how many. **Hebrews 13:17** tells Christians to obey their leaders and therefore obtain the benefit of having elders who “**watch over your souls**”. By the way, don’t just join but put down some roots. Let God and others know you are committed. The missionary martyr Jim Elliot once said, “*Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God*”.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: God, help me be a committed member to the local church.

MONDAY – 2. You make the local church a priority. Our lives are built around our priorities. Harris says in his book, “Building your life around the church means making it the kind of priority that secondary concerns flow around, not over.” This means such things as sleeping in; hunting season, football, picnicking, non church related clubs or groups, etc... should not run OVER the church but AROUND it. It is easy to say the church should come before some things like football and fishing but what about the things like your job or other “Christian” involvements? Is God asking you to put the job He has given you or any other “good” cause before the worship and service of Him through the local church? All of the things in our lives should come after God and be subservient to Him (**Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Matthew 22:34-39**).

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: God, forgive me for loving other things more than You. Help my life to reflect that You and this local church are a priority in my life.

TUESDAY – 3. You try to make your pastors job a joy. Christians often pray for good leaders but we need to pray that God would help us to follow them. God actually says it is in keeping with your interests to be a kind of follower that is a joy to lead (**Hebrews 13:17**). Shepherds will give account for how they fed, led, and cared for God’s sheep but God also say’s there is a

responsibility on the part of those being led to make the leaders job a joy. When others engage in ungodly gossip, and slander call on them to repent of their sin and refuse to participate. This duty of making your leaders work joyful is of spiritual benefit for you.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, thank You that You have provided gifted men to lead and care for my soul. Help me be loyal and teachable.

WEDNESDAY – 4. You find ways to serve. Spend yourself in serving the church. Use your God given spiritual gift to its fullest. (**1 Peter 4:10**) Also remember the example of Epaphroditus in (**Philippians 2:25-30**). Always be asking yourself, “What can I do to serve”? We all belong to each other as true members of the Body of Christ. (**Romans 12:4-6**). Don't withhold your gift, use it.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father God, help me to be serious in the pursuit and ministry of my gifts to Your body in this local church.

THURSDAY – 5. You give. Beyond giving our “service”, God also calls us to give and to bring money to Him through the local church. **Malachi 3:10, 2 Corinthians 8&9**. There are many worthwhile ministries worldwide where we can send our money but God has called us to give it first and foremost to the local church. Para-Church organizations should be of secondary importance in our financial giving.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me to REALLY understand all the money I have and ever will have is Yours. Teach me to give sacrificially and love it!

FRIDAY – 6. You connect with people. When we are active participants in the church we “do life” together. This is the entire meaning of the word used in the Bible for fellowship. The Greek word koinonia means shared life, participation. We have studied in the past all the “one another's” in Scripture and these are the very things we are to do in our relationships with each other. Here are just a few examples for us:

-Love one another (**John 13:34**)

-Be devoted to one another (**Romans 12:5**)

-Honor one another (**Romans 12:10**)

-Serve one another (**Galatians 5:13**)

-Admonish one another (**Romans 15:14**)

-Carry one another's burdens (**Galatians 6:2**)

-Pray for one another (**James 5:16**)

-Encourage one another (**1 Thessalonians 5:11**)

We know the list could go on and on. These are a few of the things we need to do for and with each other.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me to practice the "one-another's" with the people You have placed me with in this local church.

SATURDAY – 7. You share your passion. People who get excited about something in life whether it be a new product or idea, always seem to try to get others excited about it as well. The same is true for the local church. Those who have been truly transformed by the Gospel are passionate about it love the local church and want others to share in their joy as well. You can not keep inside a true passion for Jesus Christ and His church. We should be passionate for the local church for that is the primary means that God uses to be a light to reach out into the world. A local church that honors Christ is desirous to evangelize the lost. All of these things we looked at are not just one time things we do to show commitment. These very same things must be routine and practiced habitually if you are going to develop and thrive as a Christian through the local church. People that practice these things as normal life are married to the church; they aren't just "church daters". *(The previous list of 7 things that make up "the profile of commitment" are taken from Josh Harris "Stop Dating the Church" Chapter 4-Join the Club. pages 63-80)*

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank You Father for the blessing that is, Your church. Help me to love it and serve it with all I have that You would be honored and glorified and many people would come to know and love Jesus. Amen.