

The Work of The Church

Introduction:

1. Definition: work = activity in which one exerts strength or faculties to do or perform something. (Webster)
2. Church = the ecclesia, the called out, the assembly of Christ - 1 Cor. 11:18
Body of Christ - Eph. 1:22,23
Kingdom of Christ – Matt. 16:18,19; Col. 1:13
Bride of Christ – Rom. 7:4; Eph. 5:23-25
Flock – Acts 20:28
Holy Priesthood – 1 Peter 2:5, 6
House – Hebrews 3:4-6
Family or Children of God – Romans 8:14-17
3. What is the “work of the church?” Activities that are inherent to its existence:
 - a. As head of the church, Jesus is the one who determines the work of the church. Eph. 1:22-23
 - b. Jesus knows the work of God. John 4:34; 5:17; 6:29; 9:4; 17:4
 - c. Over the ages men have failed to understand the work of God. Jn.6:1-71
Jesus didn’t feed the multitude just to ease their hunger – the miracle proved him the Son of God – worthy to be followed for salvation.
4. “Work” is both a noun and a verb. It is something we talk about, but it is some thing we do.
Note briefly some passages that talk about work:
 - a. Heb. 13:21 – work to do his good will
 - b. James 1:25 – but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed
 - c. Col. 1:10 – be fruitful unto every good work
 - d. 1 Thess. 1:3 – work of faith and labor of love
 - e. 2 Cor. 9:8 – abound to every good work
 - f. 1 Cor. 16:10 – of Timothy – he worketh the work of the Lord

- I. The work of the church is related to every area of blessing and responsibility given it by the Lord.
 - A. There is work related to Salvation John 6:29
 1. Phil. 2:12 – work out your own salvation with fear and trembling
 2. 2 Tim. 2:15 – study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman
 3. 2 Pet. 1:5-10 – add to your faith and you will not be unfruitful
 - B. There is work related Evangelism
 1. 2 Tim. 4:5 – do the work of an evangelist
 2. Acts 13:2 – separate Barnabas and Saul for the work
 3. Acts 14:26 – fulfilled the work they had been recommended to do
 4. 1 Cor. 9:1 – Paul speaking – “are ye not my work in the Lord?”
 5. Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:19,20 – go into all the world and preach
 - C. There is work related to Benevolence – because God has blessed us we help others.
 1. 2 Cor. 8:1-11 – churches in Macedonia, gave of themselves and gave

- liberally to the need of brethren in Judea
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2 – lay by in store (as a farmer for the winter)
 - 3. 2 Cor. 8:4 – there is fellowship (joint participation) in this work
 - 4. Galatians 6:9, 10 – do good to all men, especially those of household of faith
- D. There is work related to Worship – corporate worship
- 1. 1 Corinthians 14:23,26
 - 2. Sing and pray with spirit and understanding – 1 Cor. 14:15
 - 3. Doing all things decently and in order – 1 Cor. 14:40
 - 4. Lord’s supper – Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-29
- E. There is work related to unity
- 1. Eph. 4:1-3 – endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
 - 2. Eph. 4:15 – speaking the truth in love
 - 3. Eph. 4:32 – kind, tenderhearted, forgiving
 - 4. 1 Cor. 1:10 – be of same mind, judgment
- F. There is work related to edification
- 1. Eph. 4:11,12 – evangelists, pastors, teachers for edification
 - 2. 1 Thess. 5:12-13 – elders – esteem them highly for their work’s sake
 - 3. 1 Tim. 3:1 – whoso desireth the office of a bishop desires a good work
 - 4. Heb. 5:12-14 – need to be skillful in use of the word
- G. There is work related to fellowship
- 1. Acts 2:42 – continued daily in the apostles doctrine, fellowship, breaking bread, prayers
 - 2. Fellowship in gospel – Phil. 1:15
 - 3. Fellowship with God, Christ, and one another – 1 Jn. 1:3-7
 - 4. Fellowship in ministering to the saints – 2 Cor. 8:4
 - 5. Rom. 12:10 – in honor preferring one another

Conclusion:

- 1. As the body of Christ – the church is made up of many members, but one body under one head. Its work must be unified for the good of the body and the glorifying of its head. Romans 12:5-21; Eph. 3:21
- 2. As the kingdom – the church must work under the authority of its King to broaden its borders and bring more citizens to the kingdom
- 3. As the bride of Christ – the church must be subject unto her husband and work to be faithful and pure for her husband.
- 4. As the flock of God – the church must hear the Shepherd’s voice, feed in his pasture and drink from his well – John 10
- 5. As the Holy Priesthood of God – the church must work to offer up spiritual sacrifices in worship acceptable to God. 1 Peter 2:5,6; John 4:24
- 6. As the House or Family of God – the church must work as a family to maintain unity, care for its brothers and sisters, and remain faithful to receive it’s inheritance 1 Peter 1:3,4

7. As members of the church we will all be judged according to the work we have done – 1 Peter 1:7; Rev. 22:12
8. Therefore, be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord in as much as ye know your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Cor. 15:58