



PLANO CHURCH OF CHRIST

406 Lew Street Plano, IL 60545

Facebook Plano IL Church of Christ

"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matt 9:38)

SUNDAY

Bible Study 10:00 am
Worship - 10:50 am
Worship - 4:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study - 7:00 pm
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The Plano Harvest

July 17, 2016

Vol. 4 No. 18

How Skipping Church Affects Our Children



In a Q&A, Carl Trueman was asked about why churches today are losing their young people. Typical answers to this question range from things like the temptations of this world or

the irrelevance of the church—your typical answers. But Trueman makes a keen and convicting connection between our parenting and apostasy.

“The church is losing its young people because the parents never taught their children that it was important. I think that applies across the board. It applies to family worship, and it also applies to whether you are in church every Sunday and what priority you demonstrate to your children that church services has on Sunday. If the sun shines out and their friends are going to the beach, do you decide to skip church and go to the beach? In which case, you send signals to your children that it is not important.” (Carl Trueman)

Now we know that artificially taking your kids to church neither bestows salvation nor guarantees it. **God is obviously not honored by external religious acts without heart worship.** This type of legalism is not the subject of this discussion. This is about parenting and the weight of the responsibility behind how they prioritize their time and lifestyle choices for their families.

Parents makes choices all the time for their families. As they decide on what takes priority in family, every choice is carefully observed and taken into the heart of their children. Yes, they are

watching you, and they are learning from you.

Maybe the reason why our children have no love for Christ is due to the fact that we as parents do not show any love or passion for Christ, evidenced by how we prioritize our time both on Sundays and during the week. When television, sports, school, hobbies even family itself are elevated to a place of idolatry and replace the vital Christian responsibilities, then we tell our children that Christ is secondary to all these things. We tell our children that it is not necessary to take up your cross and die to yourself daily in order to follow Christ. We tell them that you only have to live for Christ when it’s convenient for you. We tell them it is okay to sacrifice time with all-satisfying Savior if something “more fun” or “more important” comes along (sarcasm indicated by quotation marks if you didn’t catch that). And this sounds like a clear path to apostasy if you ask me.

Let’s evaluate where our hearts are by observing are choices. Do you prioritize the local church? Do you prioritize the worship of Christ in your home and on Sundays? Do you prioritize serving Him and worshipping Him in the contexts of school and work? This doesn’t mean that you can’t ever miss a Sunday or that you can’t have any extracurricular activities. Instead, it is a sobering reminder that we shouldn’t put the things of God at the bottom of the priority list, because it tells our children that Christ is at the bottom of our priority list. And the God of this universe does not belong there.

My prayer is that we all would improve in this area. But beware, maybe we don’t see this because Christ isn’t a priority in our lives. And if He isn’t a priority in our lives, then our children will know and follow suit. (<https://speakingtruthwithlove.wordpress.com>)

What Do I Owe This Local Church?

What do I owe this church that meets in Plano? The concept of the “social gospel” is “what does this church owe ME?” My Lord does not owe ME (*Lk 17:5-10*). Read *Heb 10:24-26* and ask yourself, “What can I provide for my brethren, and I am doing all that I can?” “Am I sinning willfully?” We owe a lifelong debt to the Lord. We owe Him our lives (*2 Cor 5:14-15, Gal 2:20*). We owe Him our bodies as a living sacrifice (*Rom 12:1*), therefore...

I Owe This Local Church the offering my Life.

1 Peter 2:5. The church is clearly described as one of the realms wherein we glorify God (*Eph 3:21*). Therefore local church membership is to be sought; working together collectively (*Acts 2:41-44*).

I Owe This Local Church the Desire To Be With Them.

Jesus’ personal ministry shows the importance of brethren (disciples) being together. They needed teaching, preparation, as well as strength and courage.

From the Day of Pentecost, the early Christians were together daily (*Acts 2:41-47*), “*One heart and soul*” (*Acts 4:32-35*), provided for the needy (*Acts 6:1*), mutual devotion (*Rom 12:10-13*), and care for each other (*1 Cor 12:25-26*). The topic of love in *1 Cor 13* is written in the context of brotherly togetherness.

A Christian’s need for spiritual companionship has not become less important or needed since the first century. There is the need to be together in worship (*Heb 10:23-25*), and house to house (*Rom 12:13*). “*Exhort one another daily while it is called today*” (*Heb 3:13*)

If you do not have the desire to attend at every service, it shows a symptom of a more serious problem: it shows that you think you are more important than Almighty God, you have no fear of Him (*Prov 8:13; Heb 10:31*)! It also shows a lack of concern for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

I Owe This Local Church the Study of God’s Word.

To contribute to the “teaching” (*Heb 5:12*). To “grow” (*1 Pet 2:2*). To “rightly divide” the word (*2 Tim 2:15*)

I Owe This Local Church the Desire to Encourage, Edify and Restore Brethren. To restore one in gentleness (*Gal 6:1*), to help carry

the “burdens” (*Gal 6:2, 8*), to warn comfort and uphold (*1 Thess 5:14*), and to provide (*James 2:14-17*). Even if I fail, I need to repent, and strengthen my brothers and sisters (*Lk 22:31-32*).

I Owe This Local Church My Prayers (*Acts 2:42, 12:1-5; 11-12; Eph 6:18; Col 4:2-4; 1 Thess 5:17-18; 2 Thess 3:1; James 5:13-16*).

I Owe This Local Church the Ability and Willingness to Teach The Lost. *Acts 11:26*. It was Barnabas who found Paul. Later Paul would teach the lost in and around Ephesus, *Acts 19:10*.

I Owe This Local Church My Cooperation, in striving Together (*Phil 1:27*), toward Unity (*1 Cor 1:10*), sacrificing my preferences (*Rom 14:19*), controlling my tongue (*Eph 4:29-32; Prov 10:19*), in discipline (*1 Cor 5:9-13; 2 Thess 3:6, 14*), and always mindful of fulfilling my role (*Titus 2-3*).

I Owe This Local Church My Money As a faithful steward. All things belong to God *Deut 10:14*. I am to use what God has provided to His glory (*Matt 25:14-30; 2 Cor 9:6-15*) as God has prospered me (*1 Cor 16:1-2*). My giving should reflect my income or prosperity according to what I have, not what I don’t have (*2 Cor 8:12*), and not deceitfully (*Mal 1:14*). My giving should “cost” me something (*2 Sam 24:24*), according to my love (*2 Cor 8:8*), as David gave for the Temple (*1 Chron 29*).

Why Teach On This? *Acts 20:28* “*Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*”

Rev 2:4-5 “*But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place--unless you repent.*”

Our Desire Here In Plano Is To...

Have faith that does not shrink back, a faith to the saving of the soul. Each member be faithful until death! Do not fear anything that man or Satan attacks us with. Keep the word. Do not deny Jesus Christ. May we be like Smyrna & Philadelphia, an “open door which no one can shut” *Rev 3:8*

Bryan Bickford