

AM I A GOOD MEMBER OF THE FELLOWSHIP?

RC BLAKES

The New Testament paints a picture of the church as a body , a family , and a building . Each metaphor implies not passive attendance, but active, interdependent partnership. To be fruitful is to move from being a consumer to a contributor, embracing the following biblical mandates.

HEBREWS 10:24-25 CWSB

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

1. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMITTED PRESENCE

Fruitfulness begins with the faithful and engaged practice of gathering with God's people.

Hebrews 10:25

Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Your presence is a vital source of encouragement to the entire body.

Acts 2:42

This means prioritizing weekly gatherings for worship, teaching, and fellowship, just as the early church devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

2. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTRIBUTING YOUR GIFTS

A body is only healthy when every part is functioning. A fruitful member actively discovers and deploys their God-given gifts.

1 PETER 4:10

As each has received a gift, use it to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

This service is for a specific purpose:

EPHESIANS 4:12

to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

This is the practical outworking of being part of Christ's body:

ROMANS 12:4-5

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

3. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHRISTLIKE LOVE

This is the supreme mark of a true disciple and the more excellent way that undergirds all other duties.

JOHN 13:35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

This love is not sentimental but active and practical, fulfilling the command to

GALATIANS 5:13

serve one another humbly in love

It involves the tangible care described in

GALATIANS 6:10

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith

This love is also the foundation for biblical correction and restoration (Matthew 18:15-17) .

4. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SPIRITUAL ENCOURAGEMENT

We are called to be a community of builders, not critics. Our words and prayers have the power of life and death.

The direct command is to
1 THESSALONIANS 5:11
encourage one another and build one another up.

This includes
Colossians 3:16
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom.

This is a primary mechanism for fostering unity:

HEBREWS 10:24
And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.

It means being devoted to prayer for one another 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

5. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GENEROUS GIVING

Fruitfulness involves the stewardship of all our resources, recognizing that everything we have belongs to God.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7
Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

EPHESIANS 2:10
We are also created for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

This generosity extends beyond finances to our work ethic, as we are called to work

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24
Work at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people

6. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GRACIOUS SUBMISSION

A fruitful member understands and respects the God-ordained structure of leadership in the local church.

HEBREWS 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you .

This involves respecting and esteeming leaders very highly in love because of their work 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 .

This structure exists so that the body can be built up in love Ephesians 4:11-16

7. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOSPEL WITNESS

The church exists not for itself, but to proclaim the excellencies of God to a watching world.

This is the mandate of the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 2:9

We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light

What It Looks Like:

As those reconciled to God, we have a responsibility to announce the message of reconciliation to people separated from Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:19-20) .

Being a fruitful member of a church community is not about achieving a perfect checklist. It is about embracing a new identity in Christ. You are a vital organ in His body, a stone in His spiritual house, and a beloved child in His family . This shift—from a consumer mindset to a contributor's heart—is the essence of biblical fellowship.

It is how we, together, display the manifold wisdom of God to the world (Ephesians 3:10) and experience the profound joy of being deeply connected to Christ and to one another.