The Church’s Responsibility

1Ti 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

The Church of the Living God is the pillar and ground of the truth

The Church of the Living God is the preserver of the Word of God

Endeavoring to keep or breaking the Unity of the Church ?

The Nature of the Church must be the Nature of Christ

2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

There is an obvious need at the present time of correct teaching upon the subject of the Church’s Responsibility.

The Christian Minister who feels his responsibility in declaring the whole Counsel of God must lament the prevailing ignorance on this subject, and be deeply interested with the importance of giving sound and full instruction concerning the Gospel of the Kingdom, which it is his duty to preach.

Ac 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Mark 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

**Behavior** in the Church is fundamental. With the loss of the Church you may lose the faith which it treasures. The Church is the keeper and witness of Holy Word, the pillar and ground of the Truth

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The doctrine of the Church is an essential part of Christian teaching.

I believe in God, in His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Ghost. The Church is the Body of which Christ is the Head. Baptized in the Holy Ghost and fire with power to witness, The saved through Christ are added to the local Church (Acts ii, 47).

Upon the Church rests the responsibility, through the Ministry of the Word for spiritual nurture, growth in grace, preparation for heavenly joy. It is our duty as well-instructed Christians to learn what the Church is, what distinguishes it, its Authority, Orders, Organization and Government, that we may know our privileges and improve our labors, and so attain through the Kingdom of Grace, a glorious entrance into the Kingdom of Glory.

A better knowledge of the Church would help us in understanding our Responsibilities.

God in man, rather man himself, becomes man's Teacher, Guide and Saviour.

The uninstructed are asked to sit in judgment on questions for solutions of which spiritual abilities are necessary.

1. Nothing is too sacred to be questioned.
2. No authority is too high to be brought into doubt and practical contempt.
3. Man is infinitely exalted.
4. The infallibility of reason is substituted for the infallibility of the Bible.
5. All possible problems of nature and spirit, profane and sacred, are rashly decided.

Such destructive theories are closely connected with the loss or the forgetfulness of the true idea of the Church. They can best be corrected by restoring to the Church its true position and its rightful authority in all matters concerning faith.

The word [*ecclesia* or church] means,a body, called out of the world, a selected assembly or people called out of heathenism, from worldly things engrossments, from the slavery of sin, and who are born into the Christ-Kingdom, Christ as Lord and Head, receiving Him personally as Redeemer and Saviour, giving Him full allegiance, obeying His teaching, relying on His promises. They are born and called into this, prevenient grace. Preparing you to be baptized into the body of Christ.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

In Covenant with God through Christ the Mediator, on the ground of His Redemptive work, through the human instrumentality of His Ministry. Responsive to His grace\ the Spiritual gifts conferred by the laying on of Apostles' hands. participation of the life of Christ crucified, of growth into Him, of nurture and sanctification.

Perfection of being in union with Christ, and at last the Redemption of body, soul and spirit

The organized body of Christ's followers thus baptized into Him is the Church. It may be considered as local—a single congregation. It is a Church as having the Ministry, the preaching of the pure word of God.

This is the Kingdom which John Baptist announced as immediately at hand, which Jesus Himself began to preach in Galilee Mark i, 14, and which He, its founder, compared to a grain of mustard seed, in His parables. it is set forth and illustrated in varied language. It is the Body of Christ. It is a living Temple built up on the foundation of His doctrine. It is a vine with fruit-bearing branches. It is an army fighting and conquering under Jesus our King and the Captain of our Salvation. It is the institution built by Christ against which the gates of hell cannot prevail Matt. xvi, 18. It is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the Truth.

All the references to it in Holy Scripture prove that it is Divine and intended to be permanent. I am not speaking now of the Jewish Church of which the Christian is the antitype, the continuation, the development, and which every one who receives the OldTestament believes to have been Divine in its origin and divinely guided in its history. I am speaking of the Church of the New Covenant. It is founded by Christ. It is purchased by His Blood. It is vitalised and energised by His Spirit. He ordained and appointed and qualifies its Ministry, and provides for their succession and perpetuation. He instituted its Sacraments, and gave for its guidance the Word of Truth. He intended it as the Spiritual House, the School for training, the Church as His Body should represent Him in the world, should be and show through the Word His life, should continue the work which He began to do and to teach (Acts i, 1), and of which He laid the foundation in His Death, Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecostal gifts; the regeneration of the world.

First, it is **one**. Christ, the Head, has not many Bodies, but one Body. It has many members, and all have not the same office, but they all contribute to the increase and usefulness of the Body. So the Vine is one. The Temple is one. Indeed, all the Scripture representations of the Church involve its Unity.

Since the Church has been broken into many schisms and as we see it to-day to be sadly divided, a distinction has been drawn between the Church, visible and invisible;

Triumphant in Glory. With some, that secret, elect number known only to God, who will persevere unto the end, and who may be conceived of as one with the Church. They are a Church within the Church. They are those whose names are written in Heaven.

2. The Holiness of the Church needs but a word of explanation.

The Church is Holy in purpose and end. It is Holy because its Head is Holy. Its life is from the only Source of Holiness.

The **Holy** Spirit is its vital breath and inspiration. It is One in Christ in Whom it lives and Who is in it the hope of glory. The Scripture passages which directly and indirectly assert the Holiness of the visible Church are numerous and must be familiar to students of the Bible.

1Ti 1:5 ¶ Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

Mt 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

The crime breaking the Unity of the Church lies chiefly at the door of lukewarmness.

4. The Church is shown to be continuing steadfastly in the Apostle's Doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers (Acts ii, 43).

The glory of a christian is in being like Jesus… You belong to a Church which has every mark of the true Church of Christ. It is an exceedingly precious privilege. The results should be seen in your lives. It will all be in vain that you call yourselves christian if you are not in living union with Christ, and if you do not love and serve Him.

Eph 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Isa 59:14 And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

Judgment--justice; between man and man.

Zec 8:16 These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Jas 3:1 ¶ My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

1Pe 5:3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

1Co 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

1Co 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

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"behave" (*anastrephesthai*) means the conduct, walk, and behavior of a person; but it especially refers to how a person relates to other people. Therefore, the great concern is how believers behave in their relationships to God, to each other, and to the unbelievers of the world.

Worship

Fellowship/ friendship

Witness

The Church’s Responsibility

1. The church is "the household of God." This does not refer to the building of the church, but to the household of the church, to the people of the church.
2. The church is "the church of the living God." The word "church" (*ekklēsia*) means an assembly, a gathering, a company of people who have been called out by God. God is the living God; He is not some dead god. He is not some idol or figment of man's imagination. He is the living God who is actually alive and is vitally concerned with how men behave and conduct themselves.
3. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth. The church *supports* the truth just as pillars and ground support a building. The church props and supports the truth, holds together and binds the truth.

1Ti 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

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