

## Getting Tired Of Your Congregation?

Be careful before you answer the above question! Occasionally, one may be heard saying something like, "I am so tired of the congregation where I worship. I want to find someplace else to go!" It is not that there is anything wrong with the local church -- one just becomes bored or weary. Why? How can we resolve this situation?

First, remember that life is usually as good or bad, happy or unhappy, as we make it. The same holds true with one's marriage. One says, "I am tired of this life," or "I am tired of my husband or wife; I want out of my marriage!" Such expressions may indicate that we fail to understand that our life, job and marriage takes a lot of work and maintenance. Some think you get a job and just go to work and one day own the company; or, that you get married and the marriage just kind of grows and takes care of itself on its own. Of course, that is why people are bored with their lives. Anything worth doing or having is worth maintaining with all diligence. This is no less true in a local congregation.

A person or family places membership with a local church. At first, everyone and everything is new, exciting and challenging. The various avenues of work are different than they have experienced before, they get to meet new people and start developing new friendships, the preacher and his preaching style is different from what we have had in the past. Then, reality sets in after a while. One begins to learn that people in the congregation are not perfect; and, we may not get along with one or two or some problem may arise in the church. The work begins to look old and we get tired of looking at and hearing the same preacher every Sunday. In other words, the honeymoon is over.

Some start looking for another congregation to attend. Some just quit. If that happened in one's marriage and one simply decided to seek another marriage partner or just quit the marriage, as some do, how tragic this would be! Others recognize the need for loyalty and steadfastness where they are. They roll up their sleeves and work more diligently. They begin working harder to apply the sermons and Bible class lessons to their lives. They become more involved in the works of the church. They start spending more time learning more of the Bible and developing their talents to be used in the avenues of work in the congregation they now attend. They "stretch" themselves and grow spiritually.

Brethren, we owe the local church our loyalty, our faithful attendance at all services (Sunday and Wednesday), our active involvement and participation

in the various works of the congregation and our full expression of love in our giving. We owe it our gratitude, our words of encouragement, and our efforts to strengthen and "talk up" the church everywhere we may go, a positive attitude towards evangelism and our wholehearted worship in spirit and in truth. We owe the local church our cooperation, participation, enthusiasm and support in every way that is scriptural! If we are not giving our congregation our full and first priority (Matthew 6:24, 33), then we have little right to complain or start looking for "greener pastures."

The answer does not lie in some unscriptural "gimmick" to keep us happy, contented and attending! It lies within ourselves! It is a matter of getting our thinking and priorities in line with what God requires of us.

Adapted From Steve Waller