

How Would You Define Faithful?

Hebrews 10:24 says, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 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.” One of the problems facing the church today is absenteeism. There are church members present at the Sunday morning worship hour who are not present Sunday night, Wednesday night, or for the Bible study period on Sunday morning. There must be some reason for this deficiency in attendance. Perhaps it is because due emphasis has not been placed on the importance of attending all services of the church in order to be faithful to the Lord.

It should always be our desire to emulate the zeal and commitment of the early church. Acts 2:42, 46 says, “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers ... And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart ...” Here is a picture of the fervent devotion of these primitive Christians toward God and their joyfulness in meeting often with one another.

I do not think many would argue that the evening services and Bible study periods should not be. Obviously, it is for the good of the Christian who is there, and a lack of attendance is generally a sign toward needing to meet more often. But how can we tell if someone is “faithful” or not?

Let me leave with a little story to mull over. A preacher was once asked to define faithful attendance in the worship services, and this was his reply: “If your car started one out of three times, would you consider it faithful? If the Internet only worked on Mondays and Thursdays, would it be missed? If you did not show up at work two or three times a month, would your boss call you faithful? If your refrigerator quit a day now and then, would you excuse it and say, ‘Oh well, it works most of the time.’ If your water heater greets you with cold water one or two mornings a week while you were in the shower, would it be faithful? If you miss a couple of mortgage payments in a year’s time, would your mortgage holder say, ‘Oh well, ten out of twelve isn’t bad’? If you miss worship and attend meetings only often enough to show you are interested, but not often enough to get involved, are you faithful?”

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