Does a Christian owe anything to the local church? "No! In fact, the local church owes me. Because I am here (with my family), the church owes me."

"What does the church owe you?"

"They owe me a comfortable environment, teachers for my kids in the classroom, a perfect (or nearly so) environment where there are no disruptions, leaders that are spiritually involved in the lives of each who attend, a leave me alone, let me be as I want to be way of thinking (which means, do not confront me concerning something I have, may be doing, or will soon participate in doing)."

"Wow! With all that, you still insist you owe nothing to the church?"

"Yes, and if I am offended in this or something else, there is another church down the road who will take us in, and be glad to hear why we left."

This over simplified conversation is not far removed from how some people think in the congregation (that is, any congregation of the Lord's church in any location). From a biblical perspective, does a Christian owe anything to the local church? Yes, a good bit. Consider the following:

Since the Christian should already Love the Lord, that is, obey His commands, he/she is also to love the church. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it (Eph. 5:25, ASV). If you love as Christ loved, you'll love the church.

To love the church, a Christian must also have Understanding about why he or she is to love the church. In the same context, Paul said this about understanding, that he might present the church to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish (5:27). To not have love and not have understanding allows a spot and wrinkle to exist.

On the other hand, if you have love and understanding, then you should also have Loyalty to the body of Christ. What does this mean in practical terms? Peter and John knew: But Peter and the apostles answered and said, We must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). Your loyalty to the Lord supersedes everyone and everything else. If not, when Judgment Day occurs, how will you answer Him who saw your response to be, "Let us obey a man more than God so we can have peace and tranquility at home."

Since your loyalty to the Lord is strong, your Presence will never be doubted. "I am tired of you saying I have to attend church services!" the Holy Spirit said, and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works; not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day drawing nigh (Heb. 10:24-25). Continued on page 2...
Family News and Notes

Visitors: If you are visiting with us today, we want to hear from you. We are thankful for your presence. Please fill out a Visitor card and leave it in your seat.

We rejoice with the Angels in Heaven... Carter Tucker, son of Rodney and Tessa Tucker, was baptized last Wednesday, August 4. We are so thankful for Carter and his willingness to confess Jesus as Lord. Please pray for Carter as he begins this new walk of serving God!

Summer Series: We hope you’ll join the Adult Auditorium Class for our Summer Series with Travis Irwin. We have two more dates left on August 11 and September 15.

Planning Session: We will be planning for the second half of the year, Sept. – Jan. 2022 on Sunday, August 15, following Evening Worship. Be thinking of ideas and ways to bring us closer together and help bring others to Christ. If you cannot attend give Kevin or one of the elders your ideas.

Golden Age Banquet Meeting: We will have a brief Golden Age Banquet meeting on Sunday, August 15, along with the Planning Session. Please bring your ideas!

Special 5th Sunday: Morné Stephanus will be here to speak on Sunday, August 29. He is a 2008 Memphis School of Preaching alumnus. Morné currently labors with the Riverside Church of Christ in Lawrenceville, GA. He has also been involved in Television and Radio Evangelism and has been privileged to preach the Gospel in various parts of the country. We will have a potluck meal and a 1 P.M. service on this day. Please be preparing, praying, and inviting others to this special day. The following are his topics: Theme - What will you be for the Lord? 9 A.M. Bible Class: “Be Mature” 10 A.M. Morning Worship: “Be Happy” 1 P.M. Early Evening Worship: “Be Content”

A Happy Birthday to... Keith Bryant...August 9

Owe the Church: Continued from page 1... If you’re tired of the exhortation, then you are tired of the Lord. Before forsaking actually takes place, one begins with finding a reason (such as a pandemic) to miss for the first time. Your love, understanding, loyalty and presence is in place, now what do you owe the Lord’s church? Your Support, in two areas. First, the Lord’s body needs space limitations), the Lord’s church needs an Evangelistic spirit in her members. Do you not have need attention. “I can’t do any of these things!” “Really? You can’t or won’t?”

Sunday School: Those unable to make services anymore because of health workers overseas and their families. All those Preaching and teaching the Good News all over the world. All in the military and civil service.

Upcoming Events

For the Record...

We are just a click away! *We are excited to be Live Streaming our 10 A.M. Worship Service each Sunday via our Facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/brushychurchofchrist Be sure to like, share, and comment on our posts to help spread the word! *Visit our website www.brushychurchofchrist.org to learn more about us and to view our bulletin! *Send us an email at brushychurchofchrist@gmail.com. *We continue to broadcast our services to the parking lot on 96.1 FM!