

Discipline of Church

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"If the grand and great doctrine of the Church tells us anything, it tells us that whoever you are and however busy you may be, the Church must be at the very center of your life. Church 'hitchhiking' is an aberration! And so is mild commitment. Men, honestly, are you a hitchhiker, kind of a 'free agent' looking for a tentative place on the roster, here for a season, there for another? If so, you will never attain to your full spiritual manhood, nor will your family reach its spiritual maturity. Both the Church and the lost world need men who practice the discipline of Church."

SUMMARY:

The Discipline of the Church consists of

The Discipline of regular attendance. – Commit yourself to regularly attend the worship services of your church.

The Discipline of Membership – You need to covenant before God to find a good body of Christ, and commit yourself to supporting her

The Discipline of Giving. – Your financial support of a local church should be the first thing you give to each pay period.

The Discipline of Participation. – Your time, talents, expertise, and creativity must be poured into your church, to the glory of God.

The Discipline of Love and Prayer. – Remember these words:

I love Thy Church, O God!
Her walls before Thee stand.
Dear as the apple of Thine eye.
And graven on Thy Hand.
For her my tears shall fall;
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end.

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

- ❖ Why is the idea of Church so unpopular today?
- ❖ Why aren't more people interested in attending a good church?
- ❖ According to Hebrews 12:22-24, what spiritual treasures are found in the church? Put these in your own words, then thank God for each one of them.
- ❖ Why are you tempted to do what Hebrews 10:25 says not to do
- ❖ What spiritual blessings might you miss out on by staying away from Christian gatherings?
- ❖ What did God speak to you about most specifically, most powerfully in this talk at Huddle? Talk to God about it right now.

APPLICATION:

Consider the many strengths and weaknesses as you see in your church. Write down the ways you personally are contributing to each of these, and also ways you can be part of changing the weaknesses.

ON YOUR OWN...

Please Read & Meditate On The Word:

Think on these Scriptures:

Hebrews 12:22-24 Christian experiences in the Church:

- ❖ We come to the city of God.
- ❖ As the Church we meet angels
Moses tells us that "myriads of holy ones" attended the giving of the Law – Deuteronomy 33:2
Thousands upon thousands attended God – Daniel 7:10
Chariots of God are tens of thousands – Psalm 68:17
- ❖ We come to fellow believers
All the rights of inheritance go to the firstborn – to us, coheirs with Christ – Romans 8:17
- ❖ We come to God
This is our highest delight – to gather before our God!
- ❖ We come to the heavenly Church Triumphant – to the spirit of righteous men made perfect. We share the same joys as Abraham, Moses, David, and Paul
- ❖ We come to Jesus – CELEBRATE!
- ❖ We come to forgiveness because of sprinkled blood

Brothers, This passage tells us that in the church you have come -right now - to these seven realities