

WHAT DO I OWE MY CONGREGATION?

I owe it loyalty. I must help carry out every good work it undertakes. I should help other congregations in special efforts, but I should not neglect my home congregation.

I owe it my dependability. I am depending on it for many things it does in my behalf. It is not fair and right for me to depend on it and not be such that it cannot depend on me. I must fully keep faith.

I owe it my financial support. It takes money to operate the church and preach the gospel. I am responsible to the Lord to give as he has prospered me. My home congregation has first call on my financial ability, for if the members of the church do not support the work of the home congregation, it will not be supported. The expenses go on whether I am there or not, so I should make up my contributions when absent.

I owe it my presence. If everyone stayed home, there would be no church services. I am responsible as anyone to attend all of its services. I must not be a parasite.

I owe it the influence of a godly life. The life I live either helps others to obey the gospel or makes it harder for them. How I live effects or makes it harder for them. How I live effects the work of the church and the salvation of the lost. I should live in such a way that my life will be a blessing to others.

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