

# HOW TO BE A GOOD CHURCH MEMBER

## PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16

By Mike Burnham

Good church members need to be characterized by certain qualities

**Philippians 2:14-16 (KJV) *Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.***

**First**, good Church members are *loving* (Jn. 13:34-35; 1Jn. 4:7,10-11,20-21; 1Cor. 13:1-7). True fellowship involves loving with a selfless desire for the good of others. It's reaching out to those who need the encouragement of genuine love. Our motive is because God first loved us (1Jn. 4:19). All of us aren't very lovable and at times none of us are. But Jesus said to love one another as He loved us. We weren't lovable when He first loved us (Rom. 5:8)

**Secondly**, good Church members are *caring* (1Cor. 12:25-26) Caring might include such activities as praying for one another, visiting the lonely, ministering to the sick, and comforting those that need to be comforted. Through praying for one another and the practical demonstration of loving and caring we fulfill the biblical admonition of Galatians 6:2. Our motive is because God cares for us (1Pet. 5:7).

**Thirdly**, good Church members are *forgiving* (Eph. 4:32). Special emphasis needs to be placed on forgiveness within the Church. An

unforgiving attitude can quench the spirit of the Church and stunt its growth. An effective Christian walk and prayer has to be seasoned with forgiveness. To forgive means to forgive and forget (Heb. 10:17), remember means "a fixture in the mind." It come from a root word meaning "to gnaw." God forgets in the sense that He doesn't make offenses a barrier between us and Himself. Nor does He keep them on file to use against us at some later time. They are not constantly gnawing at Him (Heb. 10:3).

**Fourthly**, good Church members are *forbearing* (Col. 3:13). We all have infirmities that need to be tolerated. Those things that get on our nerves. Through the love of God working in our hearts, we should be able to bear each other's infirmities, knowing how much God and others are still obliged to bear with us (Rom. 2:4). God delays His anger, is tolerant, longsuffering and good that man might repent. Can we be expected to do any less? Some members like to be in the limelight, some are overbearing, some are very out-spoken (sometimes without thinking). Rather than losing patience with people such as these, good Church members will tolerate them or help them to overcome their weaknesses (Rom. 15:1-3). Our motive is verse 3.

**Fifth**, good Church members are *submissive* (Eph. 5:21). Don't be hard set to your own will or opinions to things that are indifferent, like the color of a rug, so as to upset the peace and unity of the Church, for God's sake (our motive). The secret or key to successful mutual submission is to be clothed with humility (1Pet. 5:5). We must adopt the attitude of Romans 12:10 (*in honor preferring one another*). "Prefer" means to "take the lead." Giving honor instead of receiving it. Don't let neither grief nor envy affect your mind at seeing another honored and yourself neglected (Rom. 12:16; Phil. 2:13).

**Sixth**, good Church members are *faithful* (Heb. 10:25; Acts 2:41-42; Rom. 12:4-10). *Unity* in the Church of putting the Father's will above ours is what glorifies God (Rom. 15:5-7; Eph. 4:3) Our prayers, our thoughts, our actions toward one another, our walk in this life should always be for the glory of God. If we are good Church members we will have unity and God will be glorified in our Church, because we will be one with Him, through Jesus Christ our Lord (Eph. 3:21; Rom. 11:36).