

What are My Responsibilities to My Christian Brothers and Sisters?

The national and state elections have come and gone as have the endless promises of what government will do for each of us (if we vote right). We Christians are back to our customary tasks of providing for our families and helping those who have physical and spiritual needs. As I reflected upon my responsibility to government, I wondered what my brothers and sisters in Christ should expect of me? Or from another prospective, what do I owe my brothers and sisters in the Karns congregation? As in all our relationships, the Scriptures hold the answers.

We should start with Paul's message to the Roman brethren, to be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, giving preference to one another (Rom. 12:10).

We are to esteem others better than ourselves (Phil. 2:3).

Do good to brethren when we have opportunity (Gal. 6:10). We must help our brethren when they have needs, spiritual and physical (Rom. 12:13)

Jesus shared God's word with His disciples when they asked Him questions though they should have known the answers (Mark 7:17-23). Jesus was patient with His disciples and we should be patient with our brothers and sisters when they "don't get it." We must receive a brother or sister who is weak, even when doing so takes away our liberties in Christ (Rom. 14:10-14).

We owe it to our brothers and sisters who are caught up in sinful situations to try to recover them (Matt. 10-14). Furthermore, we must do so in a spirit of gentleness (Gal. 6:1).

We must have the same concern for everyone regardless of their social or economic status. We must not show more concern for the more prominent members than we do for those less prominent (I Cor. 12:10-12).

We should live soberly, righteously, and godly lives (Titus 2:12). Very few situations are more discouraging than when a brother or sister abandons the church or gets caught up in worldly life styles.

There may be additional things each of us owe our brothers and sisters in Christ. As we become aware of them, may each of us remind each other we are debtors and encourage each other in a spirit of gentleness to fulfill our responsibilities to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

For the elders,
Don Denton