

Why a Christian Should Join the Church

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TEXT—And the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved.—Acts 2:47.

Why does a soldier enlist in the army? Because there he can render the most effective service; there his influence will help, and not hinder; there he can have the sympathy and co-operation of other soldiers.



In every war, however, there are some soldiers who refuse to join the army. They prefer to fight independently. They are called guerillas.

But guerilla warfare as a rule is ineffective, demoralizing, and disreputable. It damages the very cause it tries to help.

In like manner there are some people who claim to be Christians, but who refuse to join the church. Like guerillas, they unconsciously damage the very cause they ought to help. They cannot give a single good reason for their position, but there are many reasons why every Christian should join some church.

I. There he can render the most effective service. He is one of many, who are all working under one commander and for the same end, and who, collectively, can accomplish what could not be done separately. If it is a good thing to have churches in a community, then Christians should support them.

Remove the churches from a town, and property would depreciate, business would decline, and all good people would move away. Sunday would become a holiday, life and property would be unsafe, and the town would soon have such a bad reputation that no decent person would move into it. For this reason every Christian owes it to himself, his family, to society, and to his God, to join and support some church.

II. It is the only consistent position for a Christian. In the church his influence will help and not hinder; for an outsider, who ought to be in the church, damages the cause of Christ just as much as an insider who ought to be out. A Christian who refuses to join the church practically says to the world that the commands of Jesus are not binding or important, which is not true.

III. A Christian who does not join the church will soon lose his joy, and perhaps his hope. If, knowing his Master's wish, he refuses to comply with it, he cannot be a happy person. He may be a saved man, but he will lose the joy of his salvation. And if he loses his joy he will also lose his power, for "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

IV. To be a member of Christ's church is the highest honor this world affords. Its sacraments are the most sacred, its literature the most sublime, and its fellowship the most sweet and enduring. All lodges and other organizations are man-made affairs, but the church is a divine institution, founded by Jesus Christ, guided and guarded by the Holy Spirit, having for its mission the evangelization of the world, and for its destiny eternal fellowship with God and heaven.

V. If it be objected that there are some hypocrites in the church, the answer is: "Yes, it may be true, but Jesus Christ is no hypocrite, and he is the life of every church."

Remember also that when the church goes through the pearly gates there will be a sifting, and the hypocrites will be left on the outside of the gate, on your side, unless you obey Christ, and you will have to spend all eternity with them. Would it not be better to live with them a few years in the church than to spend all eternity with them elsewhere? You must spend some time with those hypocrites somewhere. Where shall it be?

VI. The Christian who refuses to join the church, dishonors Jesus Christ. It is like proposing a secret marriage. He is willing that Christ should die for him, but he is not willing to live for Christ, or even to acknowledge his relation to him. He desires to be saved, but he is not willing to serve. He wants the benefits of Christianity without the sacrifices, whereas the sacrifices constitute nine-tenths of the benefits.

The meanness of it is well illustrated by the following story: Doctor Lorimer once asked a man why he did not join the church. The reply was that the dying thief did not join the church and he was saved. "Well," said the doctor, "if you do not belong to a church, you help support missions, of course?" "No," said the man. "The dying thief did not help missions, and he was saved, was he not?" "Yes," said the doctor. "I suppose he was, but you must remember that he was a dying thief, whereas you are a living one."

WHAT OUR DEFENDERS COST

At Home It is \$327 and Overseas \$423 a Year for Each Man in the Service.

Statistics have been collected by the clothing and equipage, subsistence, conservation, reclamation and hardware and metals division of the quartermasters' corps, United States Army, to indicate just what it costs a year to maintain a soldier overseas and in the United States.

These, according to the Army and Navy Journal, show that the cost is \$423.47 a year to equip and maintain a soldier overseas and \$327.78 to equip and maintain one in the United States. Subsistence, figured at 69 cents a day, amounts to \$251.85 yearly for each man overseas; figured at 51 cents a day in the United States, it amounts to \$189.80. The cost of the initial equipment for the soldier the first year in the United States is \$115.30, while the cost of his additional equipment for the first year overseas is \$42.41.

TRAGEDY ABOVE THE CLOUDS

Individual Combats and Disasters That Test the Nerves and Wits of the Flying Fighters.

Though airplane battles are tremendously exciting for all those participating in them, it is not always in actual conflict that the nerves and wits of flyers are tested to the utmost. Many adventures may be met in tamer pursuits.

Every now and then comes the roar of a gun from below, followed by flashes of blue and red, harsh, angry explosions right and left, front and rear; the disappearance of flames sometimes of what till then had been a welcome companion on the wing, the drone of some hardy adventurer strenuously endeavoring to climb into the night, and now and then the awful spectacle of a machine emerging safely from a smoke cloud only to go smash into another traveling in a different direction.

An awful smash, a hideous explosion, smoke, human cries, flames and then, with volcanic intensity, the sudden plunging into "the abyss" not only of what a few moments previously were two magnificently equipped bomb throwers, but four human souls, brave, proud, youthful and adventurous.—Washington Star.

Blondin's Feat Recalled.
In the whirligig of momentous world events it is not strange that there should pass almost unnoticed a few days ago the fifty-eighth anniversary of Blondin's exploit of crossing Niagara gorge on a four-inch tight rope, a feat that still stands as the acme of daring and nerve. One of the thousands of spectators that lined the river bank was the prince of Wales, late King Edward. This was the first time anyone had crossed Niagara gorge on a rope. Blondin carried a man on his shoulders on one trip, wheeled a wheelbarrow over on a second trip, and on a third trip carried a stove on his balancing rod and fixing it on the rope, cooked cakes and threw them to people in small boats below on the river. Blondin was afterward killed in Paris.

He made a test in 1850, and in the following year successfully carried out his feat, October 10, 1860.

The Thirsty Sailor.
Here's one they are telling about a British sailor and a civilian host: The civilian brought out a bottle of bourbon and took a drink, neglecting to offer one to the sailor.

He did this about three times and then thought that the sailor might like to wet his whistle. "Are you thirsty?" he asked the sailor.

"Yes, muchly so," answered the tar. Whereupon the civilian went out and got him a glass of water. "I said I was thirsty," said the sailor, "not dirty."

Ostentatious Words.
Why cannot scientific persons who undertake to be informing to the public learn to display their learning less ostentatiously and to convey their meaning more intelligibly? One health authority tells us profoundly that "anorexia" also is present with Spanish influenza. We take this, from the dictionary, to mean loss of appetite, which really would not be a bad thing these days; but unless it is assumed that nobody but medical men are to have the disease, it might be well to give the miscellaneous lay public a chance to know what may ail it.

Very Likely.
"The political and military situation this month will be in one respect like the family one."
"How so?"
"There will be a carving up of Turkey about Thanksgiving."

HOME TOWN HELPS

HIGHEST TYPE OF CITIZEN

He is the Man Who Sees Tendency of the Times and Helps Direct It Correctly.

Who is he? A person who keeps his eyes open and knows what is going on, and who asserts a conviction from what he sees. One may think it is very difficult, considering the complexity and multiplicity of events, to possess oneself of a governing truth from the driftwood of the rapidly passing stream of things. But that is not what he has to do. If a person has to wait for every little particular he will never reach a judgment or belief. You can see such people in a community, mere peckers of bird seed, full of rapid talk and controversy. They are no more agents of truth than Old Nick is.

You don't have to inspect each particular straw to see what a haystack is. You can look at it, see its form, understand its purpose, and know all there is in a haystack to know. So in life, the small facts are endless and shed no light.

One must turn from them to the tendency of policy and make up his mind from that. Such a discovery is easier than a single fact. One cannot make up one's mind from little things, for they are endless, one suggesting another infinitely. So a general view that expresses a tendency provides the opportunity for a conviction.

The civic duty, then, is to get acquainted with the tendency of a measure of policy, the influence it has on other things and how it affects the habits of a community. This constant jowling about particulars never constructs a real faith. One has to take his stand on an axiom or self-evident truth and then look out and see whether a circumstance is coming to him or going from him. That is the way to get at a tendency which is the necessary habit of good citizenship. It is the small mind that is constantly looking for peanut facts and reasons. It is the larger mind that looks for tendencies, and the field for its exercise includes all national, state and city affairs. A man who doesn't see tendencies there is a poor citizen, and they are legion.—Columbus Journal.

CONSIDER LOOKS OF THINGS

Any Number of Reasons Why Every Effort Should Be Made to Make Home Attractive.

"In traveling through a certain section of Illinois the other day I noticed that most of the homes were cheerless and desolate," Director Charles Adkins told me the other day. "The yards were full of weeds, there were no flowers nor vines, and the majority of the houses were unpainted."

"Who would want to live in such a place? What attraction is there to keep the boys and girls on the farm? I felt like asking these people why they didn't paint up and clean up and make their homes look like something."

Soldiers are required to keep their equipment clean and their faces shaved because of the effect on their morale. A clean, trim-looking soldier has more self-respect and fights better than a slovenly one. The man who takes pride in the appearance of his place is a better farmer and a better man on that account. The whole family undertakes its tasks more cheerfully and more successfully because of it.—Prairie Farmer.

Respect Other People's Property.

Attention to other people's property adds to the national wealth. The idea seems to have gotten abroad that wealth is purely a personal matter. To a certain extent that is true. But wealth produces for the common good. The facts show that not dire poverty but growth and development is the occasion of discontent. You can do your part in the upward march of progress by teaching men that every property loss brings calamity on the community. And the principle works both ways. Men often sow for the other man what they themselves reap. Be a constructionist and learn to respect other people's property.

Houses From Barns.

In the growth of our towns and suburbs, especially in the older ones, places of several acres are frequently divided into smaller building lots, writes Helen Bowen in the House Beautiful. Such places usually have barns or stables which are often sufficiently well built and in sound enough condition to be remodeled into houses. In the present high cost of lumber and labor, the saving is worth considering, though it varies greatly in different cases. If the barn has a good foundation, a strong, sound frame, and does not require much altering in size or shape, the saving will be considerable.

Trees to Honor War Heroes.

In the American Forestry Magazine, the official organ of the American Forestry association, an editorial is devoted to the move in several cities to plant trees in honor of the war heroes. The magazine urges that this be made a national movement. It is urged that a boulevard be planted as "Liberty Row" or line some special street with "victory oaks," each to be named for a fallen hero.

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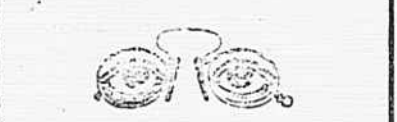
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