

## **My Contribution to the Church** Pilgrim Youth Institute August 1, 2020

*“Son, when you go hunting or fishing with a friend, always contribute something!”*

**“Youth Contributing to Their Congregation”**: what business do I have telling youth how to contribute? The only consistent basis would be if I am contributing to the church, I belong to... 80% of Americans have a negative view of church. Do you see anything strange about this? Many more than this are professing Christians...

*This raises several additional questions.*

Who does the church belong to?

What do I contribute to the church?

How is this church different because of me?

Would something positive be missing from my church if I was no longer there?

*What company or organization do you have a positive view of? Why is that? Do you relate to the CEO? Would your view of them stay the same if the “counter” person could care less about you and your issues?*

How does the world around us view Christ? How do they view the church? (Is it not often through the lens of me?) If they have a negative view of the church, does that come from Christ or me?

### **Contributions:**

Positive contributions: *pulling my share, going over and beyond, expressing appreciation, willing to serve.*

Negative contributions: *critical spirit, gossip, impatience, dead-beat attitude and actions, attention seeking.*

In contributing to the church, is there a **Neither** or is there an **Either/Or**?

*I am not sure there is a neither...*

*I am quite sure there is an either/or.*

**What should I be contributing to my church?** What is the work of the church? Can the work of the church be done collectively as in a group? Yes, it can... No, it cannot...

**The work of the church begins and ends on an individual level.**

Joh 13:34-35 The church is to be the place of and example in love...

Eph 4:2-3 (*What have I recently forborne and sacrificed to keep unity and to bind the brothers and sisters in peace?*)

Mat 16:19 (*I think these verses often get abused...*) The work of the church is to show and declare what God has and wants bound, and to show and declare what God has and wants to be loosed.

Mat 18:17-20 Building on the binding and loosing: it is the work of the church to give correction in the case of an error or an offense. It is the work of the church to discipline those who do not accept correction.

Rom 16:17-18 The church is to guard against false doctrine, and to give direction in what teachings and teachers to avoid.

Act 13:2-3 The church is to be the channel through which God calls people to His work... The church should be the sending agent, the support group, and the enabler of those who teach and preach.

Act 14:26-28 Act 15:3-4 The church is for accountability, for sharing, and for encouragement.

Gal 6:1-2 The church is for the restoration of the erring, the church is for the sharing of burdens.

Rom 15:1-2 The church is to help us “please” (*be agreeable and conscientious*) our brothers and sisters in Christ.

2Ti 4:1,2,5 The church is to be the place we work and do what God has for us in this life.

**Be whole hearted - Pray – Encourage – Give Time – Give Attention – Ask Questions – Be Open – Support**

In watching and observing “Christians”: it seems many are less than wholehearted in their contribution to the church... Why is that? Is it because of others...?

If my heart is not wholly in the church and in the work God has given to the church: who am I shorting?  
What would happen if all others in the church contributed on the level I do?

### **What is the Church?**

A nursery for the young. A shelter for the weak.

A hospital for the sick. The springboard for the strong.

The rallying point for the faithful. The staging area for action.

The light in the dark. The salt of the earth.

The bride and the body of Christ.

*What am I contributing to the body of Christ?*