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Life in the Body / Exaltation of Christ

In the Old and New Testaments, we find fourteen vital responsibilities for God's people.

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## Introduction

### Proposition and Outline:

In the Old and New Testaments, we find fourteen vital responsibilities for God's people. As a member of the our Lord's church, it is crucial that you:

- **Worship and Exalt God [Session I]**
- **Pray Devotedly [Session II]**
- **Gather with Believers [Session II]**
- **Be Equipped [Session III]**
- **Serve the Church [Session III]**
- **Equip Others [Session III]**
- **Encourage Fellow Believers Spiritually [Session III]**
- **Support One Another Physically [Session III]**
- **Foster Unity and Peace**
- **Give Generously**
- **Live Accountably**
- **Hold Others Accountable**
- **Maintain a Good Witness**

- **Preach the Gospel**

In the Old and New Testaments, we find fourteen vital responsibilities for God's people. As a member of the our Lord's church, it is crucial that you:

## Retreat Review

### **Acts 20:28 LSB**

<sup>28</sup> “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

### **Ephesians 1:7 LSB**

<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our transgressions, according to the riches of His grace

### **Matthew 16:18 LSB**

<sup>18</sup> “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

### **Ephesians 1:5 LSB**

<sup>5</sup> by predestining us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

## **It is Crucial that You Worship and Exalt God in Everything You Do!**

### **1 Corinthians 10:31 LSB**

<sup>31</sup> Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

### **Psalms 34:3 LSB**

<sup>3</sup> O magnify Yahweh with me, And let us exalt His name together.

### **Psalms 99:5 LSB**

<sup>5</sup> Exalt Yahweh our God And worship at the footstool of His feet; Holy is He.

### **Psalms 145:1-2 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> I will exalt You, my God, O King, And I will bless Your name forever and ever. <sup>2</sup> Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

### **1 Chronicles 29:11 LSB**

<sup>11</sup> “Yours, O Yahweh, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the kingdom, O Yahweh, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.

## **It is Crucial that You Pray Devotedly**

### **Ephesians 6:10–11 LSB**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the might of His strength. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

### **Ephesians 6:18 LSB**

<sup>18</sup> praying at all times with all prayer and petition in the Spirit, and to this end, being on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

### **Ephesians 6:12 LSB**

<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

### **Colossians 4:2 LSB**

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving;

### **Philippians 4:6 LSB**

<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:17 LSB**

<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing;

## **It is Crucial that You Be Equipped**

### **Colossians 1:28–29 LSB**

<sup>28</sup> Him we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. <sup>29</sup> For this purpose I also labor, striving according to His working, which He works in me in power.

### **Hebrews 13:20–21 LSB**

<sup>20</sup> Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, our Lord Jesus, <sup>21</sup> equip you in every good thing to do His will, by doing in us what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

#### **Ephesians 4:11–12 LSB**

<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ,

### **It is Crucial that You Gather with Believers**

#### **Acts 2:41–42 LSB**

<sup>41</sup> So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. <sup>42</sup> And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

#### **Acts 2:46 LSB**

<sup>46</sup> And daily devoting themselves with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

#### **Hebrews 10:24–26 LSB**

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more as you see the day drawing near. <sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

#### **Matthew 16:18 LSB**

<sup>18</sup> “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

### **It is Crucial that You Serve the Church**

#### **Ephesians 4:11–12 LSB**

<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ,

#### **Romans 12:1 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I exhort you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy, *and* pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

#### **Romans 12:4–8 LSB**

<sup>4</sup> For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another, <sup>6</sup> but having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: whether prophecy, in agreement with the faith; <sup>7</sup> or service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with generosity; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

### **It is Crucial that You Equip Others**

#### **Colossians 1:28 LSB**

<sup>28</sup> Him we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

#### **2 Timothy 2:1–2 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> You therefore, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

#### **James 3:1 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Do not, many *of you*, become teachers, my brothers, knowing that we will receive a stricter judgment.

### **It is Crucial that You Encourage Fellow Believers Spiritually**

#### **Galatians 6:1 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Brothers, even if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, *each of you* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

**Ephesians 5:18–20 LSB**

<sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

**Hebrews 10:24 LSB**

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

**1 Timothy 4:1 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

**Galatians 5:16–17 LSB**

<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you do not do the things that you want.

## **It is Crucial that You Support One Another Physically**

**James 1:27 LSB**

<sup>27</sup> Pure and undefiled religion before *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

**James 2:14–16 LSB**

<sup>14</sup> What use is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?

# It is Crucial that You Foster Unity and Peace

## **Ephesians 4:1 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

## **Ephesians 4:2 LSB**

<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

## **Philippians 2:1–4 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, <sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy, that you think the same *way*, by maintaining the same love, *being* united in spirit, thinking on one purpose, <sup>3</sup> doing nothing from selfish ambition or vain glory, but with humility of mind regarding one another as more important than yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not *merely* looking out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

## **Philippians 2:5–8 LSB**

<sup>5</sup> Have this *way of* thinking in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

## **Philippians 4:2–3 LSB**

<sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to think the same way in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Indeed, I ask you also, genuine companion, help these women who have contended together alongside of me in the gospel, with also Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

## Application Principles

### **Reject Selfish Ambition and Pride**

In his letter, Paul emphasized that selfish ambition and pride are harmful to church unity. Christians must avoid pursuing personal success or comfort at the

expense of others, recognizing that pride destroys unity and hinders the spread of the gospel.

### **Pursue True Humility in Your Walk**

Humility is essential for maintaining unity. It begins with an understanding of God's holiness and your own sinfulness. By acknowledging this, you will be reminded that you are saved by God's grace, not by your merit or works, which fosters humility.

### **Treat Others as More Important than Yourself**

You should treat your brothers and sisters as "VIPs" (very important persons). By regarding others as more important than ourselves, you reflect the love of Christ and create an environment where people are valued and loved.

### **Look Out for the Interests of Others:**

In Philippians, Paul calls the church to not only care for our own needs but to actively seek out and address the needs of others. This involves both meeting practical needs and lifting others in prayer, fostering a culture of selflessness.

### **Follow Christ's Example of Humility**

According to Paul, Jesus demonstrated ultimate humility by giving up His divine privileges and dying on the cross for humanity. His sacrificial love serves as the supreme model for how you should act in humility, love, and forgiveness toward one another.

## **It is Crucial that You Give Generously**

### **Ecclesiastes 5:10 LSB**

<sup>10</sup> He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance *with its* produce. This too is vanity.

### **1 Timothy 6:10 LSB**

<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils, and some by aspiring to it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

### **Luke 16:8 LSB**



<sup>8</sup> “And his master praised the unrighteous steward because he had acted shrewdly, for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light.

**Luke 16:9 LSB**

<sup>9</sup> “And I say to you, make friends for yourselves from the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will take you into the eternal dwellings.

**Luke 16:10 LSB**

<sup>10</sup> “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much, and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.

**Luke 16:11–12 LSB**

<sup>11</sup> “Therefore if you have not been faithful in the *use of* unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true *riches* to you? <sup>12</sup> “And if you have not been faithful in *the use of* that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?

**Luke 16:13 LSB**

<sup>13</sup> “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

**Matthew 6:24 LSB**

<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

**Luke 6:38 LSB**

<sup>38</sup> “Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”

**2 Corinthians 9:6–7 LSB**

<sup>6</sup> Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows with blessing will also reap with blessing. <sup>7</sup> Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

## Application Principles

### The Danger of Loving Money

[Ecclesiastes 5:10](#) and [1 Timothy 6:10](#) emphasize that the love of money is inherently dangerous and leads to dissatisfaction and spiritual downfall. The love of money, rather than money itself, is the root of various evils.

### Money reflects Your Heart

The way we handle money reveals much about our spiritual condition. Even if we do not pursue wealth in extreme ways like televangelists, we can still have a hidden love of money.

### Use Wealth for Eternal Investment

[Luke 16:9](#) teaches that material wealth can and should be used for eternal purposes, such as advancing the kingdom of God. Jesus urges believers to use their worldly earnings wisely to impact eternity.

### Faithfulness in Little Leads to Greater Responsibility in the Kingdom

[Luke 16:10-12](#) stresses that being faithful in small matters, including finances, prepares believers for greater responsibilities in God's kingdom.

### You Cannot Serve Both God and Money

[Luke 16:13](#) and [Matthew 6:24](#) make it clear that it is impossible to serve both God and wealth. A divided heart will always prefer one master over the other.

### God Will bless Your Generosity

[Luke 6:38](#) and [2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#) explain that generosity is met with God's blessing. When we give with a cheerful heart, not out of compulsion, God blesses that giving in abundant ways.

### Types of Giving

There are several types of kingdom giving, including:

- **Benevolence offerings** for those in need, especially within the church.

- **Regular offerings** to support church ministries.
- **Missions offerings** to support the spread of the Gospel.
- **Support for likeminded Christian organizations** that advance God's work.

### You are to Give Sacrificially Without Set Amount

There is no prescribed amount or percentage for giving in the New Testament. The Lord calls for sacrificial giving that is between the believer and God.

## It is Crucial that You Live Accountably

### **Romans 14:12 LSB**

<sup>12</sup> So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

### **Proverbs 27:17 LSB**

<sup>17</sup> Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.

### **James 5:16 LSB**

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

## It is Crucial that You Hold Others Accountable

### **Ephesians 4:1-3 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

### **Matthew 18:15 LSB**

<sup>15</sup> “Now if your brother sins, go and show him his fault, between you and him alone; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

### It is Crucial that You Maintain a Good Witness

#### **Proverbs 22:1 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> A *good* name is to be chosen over great wealth, Favor is better than silver and gold.

#### **1 Timothy 3:7 LSB**

<sup>7</sup> And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

#### **Colossians 4:5–6 LSB**

<sup>5</sup> Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, redeeming the time. <sup>6</sup> Let your words always be with grace, seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should answer each person.

#### **Ephesians 4:29 LSB**

<sup>29</sup> Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for building up what is needed, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

#### **Romans 12:17–18 LSB**

<sup>17</sup> Never paying back evil for evil to anyone, respecting what is good in the sight of all men, <sup>18</sup> if possible, so far as it depends on you, being at peace with all men,

### It is Crucial that You Preach the Gospel

#### **Matthew 28:19–20 LSB**

<sup>19</sup> “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”