

Where have we been?

1. We have realized the **Importance of the Local Church** - that there is ordinarily no salvation outside of the church.
2. We have seen why it is imperative to **Commit Ourselves to Church Membership**.
3. We have considered what to look for when **Choosing a Good Church** (Acts 2:42).
4. We have seen our need to properly **Relate to Church Leadership**.
5. We have observed God's design in His household as we are to **Fulfill Our Roles as Men and Women**.
6. We have heard God's call to faithfully and actively **Participate in the Stated Worship Services of God**.
7. We have been prodded to **Use Our Spiritual Gifts** for the good of the rest of the body.
8. We have been challenged to care for one another as we **Confront One Another in Love**.
9. We have seen the importance of **Preserving Unity in the Body**.
10. We have received God's call to persevere in **Praying for One Another**.

Caution: We can do all the right things for all the wrong reasons.

In order that we do not fall into this trap, consider the following...

- I. When you strive to be a good member of a local church,
you should do so **NOT** to be saved, but **BECAUSE** you have been saved.

- II. When you strive to be a good member of a local church,
you should do so **NOT** to be more loved by God, but **BECAUSE** He already loves you.

- III. When you strive to be a good member of a local church,
you should do so **NOT** to be accepted or esteemed by others, but to be pleasing to **GOD**.

- IV. Your involvement in Christ's church as a good member is
NOT (primarily) for **YOU** to be served, but that you might serve **OTHERS** in the name of Christ.

Possible Sunday School Topics for the New Year - the following suggestions have been offered:

- A Study in the Westminster Shorter Catechism (using G.I. Williamson's book as a guide)
- A Study in Apologetics (i.e. Lee Strobel's book, *Reasons for Faith*, or G. Bahnsen's book, *Always Ready*)
- A Study on Seeing Christ in the Old Testament (i.e. C. Wright, or T. Longman)
- A Study in Job (Rick Schumacher)
- Others?