Our Duties Together

Intro: Paul presents the church as a body with all parts of the body necessary for the proper functioning of the body in 1 Cor. 12:12-27. Notice that God has set the members in the body (1 Cor. 12:18 “18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him”). It is fitting for us to “search the Scriptures” to find out our duties one to another and to God, and for us to be reminded of those duties.

I. My Duties As A Preacher
   A. My responsibility in the pulpit.
      1. 2 Tim. 4:2 “2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”
      2. Preach the Word:
         a. Jesus’ words will judge us; John 12:48 “48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”
         b. The Scriptures make us wise unto salvation; 2 Tim. 3:15 “15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
         c. Opinions, thoughts, etc., of mine or other men will not save a soul.
      3. Be instant in season and out of season.
         a. Thayer, “to be at hand i.e. be ready”; 1 Pet. 3:15 “15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”
         b. When it is convenient and when it is not.
      4. Reprove is to prove over and over again.
      5. Rebuke is to admonish sharply, reprimand.
      6. Exhort is to encourage one to carry on.
         a. We should do it daily; Heb. 3:13 “13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”
         b. It should be done out of love; Heb. 10:24-25 “24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”
      7. Longsuffering is to suffer long.
         a. This is one of the things necessary for unity; Eph. 4:2 “2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;”
         b. It is one of the fruit of the Spirit; Gal. 5:22-23 “22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”
      8. Doctrine is teaching.
B. I must be an example

1. 1 Tim. 4:12-13 “12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”

2. In word—my speech will be noticed.

3. In conversation—my manner of life will represent the church.

4. In love—I must exemplify Christ’s love.

5. In spirit—my actions, moods, motives must portray a Christian.

6. In faith—I must have faith when the going is rough.

7. In purity
   a. I must be pure and clean in the sight of all.
   b. 1 Tim. 5:22 “22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.”

II. Your Duties As Christians

A. Love one another

1. 1 Pet. 1:22 “22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:”

2. When we truly love God, we will love one another; 1 John 4:20 “20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”

3. We must love in deed; 1 John 3:18 “18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

B. Be attentive in worship.

1. God’s people must have a desire for knowledge; Hos. 4:6 “6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

2. A desire to worship will improve our attendance and attention; Psa. 122:1 “1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

3. Examine the things said; Acts 17:11 “11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
   a. This demands alertness.
   b. This helps us grow.

4. Pass these things on to others; 2 Tim. 2:2 “2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

C. Cooperate with the bishops.

1. This applies to all: elders, deacons, preacher, members.

2. Do not be critical of them; 1 Tim. 5:19 “19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.”

3. They have the rule over us; Heb. 13:17 “17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”
   a. They watch for our souls.
   b. They will give account.
III. The Duties of the Elders

A. This is a big responsibility

1. It is their responsibility to oversee the church; Acts 20:28 “28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

2. It is their responsibility to feed the flock; 1 Pet. 5:2 “2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;”

3. It is their responsibility to be an example to the flock; 1 Pet. 5:3 “3 Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.”

B. It is a responsibility with rewards.

1. Elders are responsible to God; Heb. 13:17 “17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

2. A crown of life is yours if you are faithful to this charge; 1 Pet. 5:4 “4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

IV. The Duty of Deacons

A. They are to be serving the church.

1. Deacon means servant, “to serve, wait upon, with emphasis on the work to be done” (Zodhiates).

2. They are to serve the church under the direction and work the bishops give them.

B. They are to be proven men.

1. 1 Tim. 3:10 “10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.”

2. These are men that have been serving God and others prior to their appointment.

V. Realizing Our Parts We Will Grow Together

A. Each one has varying abilities.

1. Rom 12:3-10 “3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. 9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. 10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;”

2. 1 Cor. 12:12-26 “12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18 But now hath God set the members every
one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19 And if they were all one member, where were the
body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I
have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22 Nay, much more those
members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those members of the body,
which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely
parts have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the
body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: 25 That there should be
no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether
one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice
with it."

B. Some principles we learn:
1. God has placed us in the body as it pleased Him.
2. We are members one of another.
   a. Every member is necessary.
   b. We have various functions in the body.
   c. We should prefer and honor one another.
   d. We have a love and compassion for one another.
3. There is a unity even though many members.

Conclusion: If we allow the Scriptures to speak and instruct us and we follow what God has
authorized in all things, we will be united Christ and work together in love with each fulfilling their
respective duties.