What I Can Do To Help This Congregation

Intro: Every Christian is a member of the church (Acts 2:47 “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved”). As members of the church they are first, members of the church universal (Mat. 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”), then of the church congregational (Rev. 1:11 “Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea”). As members of the church congregational, we should be interested with the local church. In view of this I would like for us to study what I can do to help this congregation.

I. Attend All Worship Services.

A. It should be the joy and privilege of all to worship God.
   1. John 4:23-24 “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
   2. 1 Pet. 2:5, 9 “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.... 9But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”

B. We are to assemble with the saints.
   1. Acts 20:7 “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”
   2. 1 Cor. 11:18, 20 “For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.... 20When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord’s supper.”
   3. Loyalty to the local congregation will prevent us from running around all the time to other congregations.

II. Live In Submission To And Be Supportive Of The Elders.

A. The Bible terms them bishops.
   1. It is from the Greek word episkopos (ἐπίσκοπος).
   2. It means overseer, a man charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly, guardian, superintendent.
   3. This shows the work of the elders.

B. They are to oversee the work of the church.
   1. Phi. 1:1 “Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:”
   2. Acts 20:28-30 “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. 29For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”
   3. 1 Pet. 5:1-4 “The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2Feed 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; 3Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”
C. **We are to support and submit to them.**
   1. 1 Thes. 5:12-13 “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”
   2. Heb. 13:7, 17 “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.... 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.”
   3. 1 Tim. 5:17 “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.”

III. **LIVE A PURE LIFE.**
   A. **Purity enjoined on the Christian.**
      1. Mat. 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”
      2. 1 John 3:3 “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”
   B. **We must keep our thoughts pure.**
      1. Pro. 12:5 “The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.”
      2. Phi. 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”
   C. **We must keep our lives pure.**
      1. 2 Cor. 7:1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”
      2. Rom. 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
      3. So we can be proper examples.
         a. 1 Tim. 4:12 “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.”
         b. Mat. 5:13-16 “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

IV. **WORK FOR UNITY WITHIN THE CONGREGATION.**
   A. **Christ prayer for the disciples was for unity; John 17:20-21** “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”
   B. **We are to have unity.**
      1. 1 Cor. 1:10 “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”
      2. Eph. 4:3-7 “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God
and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.”

3. Phi. 4:2 “I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.”

C. Showing love one for another.

1. John 13:34 “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

2. 1 John 4:20-21 “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? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”

3. We are not to bite and complain against one another; Gal. 5:15 “But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.”

V. Give To The Work Of The Church.

A. Contribute our money.

1. God has given us the obligation to give.

   a. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

   b. 2 Cor. 9:7 “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

2. Our obligations at our home congregation continue when we are gone.

   a. Sometimes a person does not like what the elders do, thus they refuse to give—this is sin.

   b. The elders have outlined a plan of work, it takes money to fulfill that work whether we are there or not (on vacation, out of town, etc.).

   c. We must realize that as we give, we give to God.

B. Contribute our abilities.

1. God gives to each person certain abilities which we must use to glorify God; Mat. 25:15 “And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.”

2. Rom. 12:3-6 “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. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;”

3. 1 Pet. 4:10-11 “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

C. Contribute our time.

1. Eph. 5:15-16 “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

2. Col. 4:5 “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”

3. Time passes away thus we must use our time to glorify God; Psa. 144:4 “Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away.”
D. “All we have must be at the disposal of the church” (J. W. Roberts, 1 & 2 Peter and Jude R. B. Sweet Co., 1964, p. 50).

1. Notice that the early church gave their goods to others; Acts 4:32, 34-35 “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.... 34Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35And laid them down at the apostles’ feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.”

2. 2 Cor. 8:5 “And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.”

3. Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

VI. SAVE SOULS.

A. The is the work that Christ came to accomplish.

1. Luke 9:56 “For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.”

2. Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

3. John 3:17 “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

B. This is the work Christ gave us to perform.

1. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

2. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

C. This is the work the early church did.

1. Acts 5:42 “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”

2. Acts 8:4 “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”

3. 2 Tim. 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.”

D. This is the work we are to do.

Conclusion: Are you concerned about the Lord’s church here? Are you doing the things necessary to help the Lord's church? If not now is the time to start.