

Participation in "Church Activities"

Answer these questions:

- How many "church activities" do *people* want you to take part in?
- How many "church activities" does *God* command you to take part in?

You *do* have an obligation to follow Jesus. This means...

- Worship God - with other Christians (when possible), in spirit and in truth, but not necessarily in any specific location.
- Pray (talk to God).
- Grow in your understanding and knowledge of God's Word, the Bible.
- Let the Bible influence each decision you make.
- Let the Bible define your values in each area of life.
- Be a light - a godly influence - in the world, seven days a week.
- Build-up and encourage other Christians.
- Love God and neighbor (including those who choose to be enemies).
- Use your gifts and abilities for the benefit of others (rather than selfishly).
- Humble yourself in the presence of your God - and let that humility affect the way you interact with other people.
- Live a pure life.
- Condemn sin and hypocrisy (starting with any sin and hypocrisy that may exist in your own life).
- [Many other things...]

But you have *no* obligation to...

- Participate in any "church (or religious) activity" that God does not require you to participate in!

Your job is to build up God's people (which *God* calls the "church"). You have *no obligation* to build up a man-made institution (which many people *wrongly* call the "church").

If you want to participate in some of the programs and activities that the man-made institution has invented, you are free to do so - provided they don't interfere with anything you have a *genuine* obligation to do. Otherwise, leave those things to the "church goers" who don't mind being "religious," but who have no serious desire to follow Jesus. They can take care of those man-made programs, which build up the man-made "church." You, in contrast, can focus on the things they *can't* take care of: building up the "church" that *God* created!