

## DUTIES THAT ARE POSITIVE

By Keith Greer

*“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.” {Romans 12:9}* There is another side to the proposition. God gave His children many positive duties. On the positive side, we must:

**Instill truth.** *“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” {2 Timothy 2:1-4}* A disciple is a learner who follows his master’s teaching. Only truth can lead a person to the Lord, and under no circumstances can that truth be compromised. More than anything else, lost sinners need God’s truth.

**Support the church.** *“But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” {1 Timothy 3:15}* The Lord promised to build His church {Matthew 16:18}. He purchased it with the blood He shed on Calvary’s cross. {Acts 20:28} It is this kingdom (church) that Christ will offer up to His Father at the end of time. {1 Corinthians 15:24} Just as the ark was the means through which God saved Noah and his family from the flood, the church is the vehicle through which He has chosen to save His children when the final judgment arrives.

**Study God’s word.** *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” {2 Timothy 2:15}* God’s people need to keep His word in their hearts. Only by studying can we plant the gospel seed deep into our minds. The more of God’s word we have in our hearts, the easier it will be to walk with the Lord. Study benefits us and those we teach and with whom we share the message of life. In this life, there is no book that is more important to know and spend time learning.

**Sing praises with proper attitudes.** *“What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.” {1 Corinthians 14:15}* We must sing, but we must also sing with “understanding.” Words are our means of communication. When we sing, we teach and admonish one another. {Colossians 3:16} How can we learn, or teach others, if we don’t understand what we are singing? Singing is not just an exercise, it’s an act of worship in which we must engage with the proper attitude; or else God will reject our worship.

**Attend the services.** *“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” {Hebrews 10:14,25}* We should view attending the assemblies of the saints as a privilege and an honor. We attend, not only to worship God, but also to comfort and strengthen one another. Where else would you want to be?

**Live soberly.** *“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.” {Titus 2;12}* We live by a different standard and have a different goal—to please God. Let’s not be people who *“say and do not do.” {Matthew 23:3}*.

In order to please God, Christians must perform both positive and negative duties. Christians are to be “lights in a world of darkness.” God’s warning and His commands must be respected, heeded, and obeyed if we ever plan on gaining heaven as our eternal home. Obedience to God’s laws are not optional they are mandatory! While I can understand why the world rejects them, it is beyond my understanding how God’s own people fight against Him! Are we listening? \*\*\*