

ARE YOU HABITUALLY LATE?

Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. This subject needs discussing in almost every congregation in the land today because there is a group in most congregations that arrive late.
 2. These people are late about the same number of minutes every service.
- I. NEARLY EVERY CONGREGATION HAS A SIMILAR PATTERN FOR THE ARRIVAL OF LATE-COMERS.
1. This condition in congregations has a tendency to minimize the value of Bible Study and Worship, not only for those who are late, but also for those who are prompt.
 2. There may be times when any person is likely to be necessarily detained.
 3. This condition, for the most part, is a matter of habit and in no sense necessary.
 4. If you are one of these habitually late-arrivers, you can greatly increase the value of the period of Worship for yourself and for others by correcting this condition.
- II. SOME ARE LATE BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KNOW HOW TO BE ON TIME.
1. They have never learned to plan and organize their work so that they are able to keep their appointments.
 2. Attention should be given to the time it takes to do the various essential duties.
 3. Plans should be made to undertake only those that one has time to finish so that he may keep the Lord's appointment at the Worship hour or the Bible study.
 4. Worship and Bible study is an appointment, and God's people are resting under an ethical obligation to keep it promptly.
- III. OTHER PEOPLE ARE LATE BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE TOWARD BEING ON TIME.
1. They consider being late a personal privilege, and they fail to realize the inconvenience they cause others to suffer.
 2. Those who make the effort to be prompt are handicapped by those who fail to do so.
 3. They have their minds diverted from the object of their worship and Bible study to that of the late-comers.
- IV. IF ALL WERE LATE IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONDUCT THE SERVICE WITH DECORUM AND ORDER -- I Cor. 14:40
1. We are obligated as Christians to make the worship and Bible study meaningful and do nothing that will minimize its value to any other person.
 2. An attitude of courteous consideration for other Christians will go a long way in helping anyone to overcome the habit of habitual lateness.
- V. KEEPING ONE'S APPOINTMENTS ON TIME IS IMPORTANT FOR ONE'S OWN CHARACTER AND ESSENTIAL TO ONE'S SELF-RESPECT.
1. It indicates the ability to execute one's task and obligations efficiently.
 2. It indicates a genuine concern for the value and meaning of worship and Bible study, and the desire to make the worship and Bible study an experience of utmost significance to all who attend.
 3. Nearly all congregations would find the worship and Bible study more delightful and meaningful if the habitually late arrivers would give serious thought to the meaning of this fault.

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