

Church Alive website called "This Week's Question" Week 25

"Church Alive seems to be saying that participation in church work is necessary for spiritual advancement. Where does that leave people who feel too ill or too old to do physical church work? Does that mean they are less spiritual than church workers? I don't think so. My experience is that the more "church work" people do, the less they're interested in the true work of Christian Science, i.e. healing and loving their neighbors, as they are too busy on committees, etc. (I've been a church member for over 50 years.)"

One way to look at church work is to see it as actually working for and serving the Christ. After all the Church that Jesus established is founded on the rock of Christ. Wouldn't that mean that everything about church has to do with following, living, and cherishing the Christ? We can never be separated from Church any more than we can be separated from Christ..The more we actively live the Christ, the more Church is alive in our hearts!

Why does participation in church work advance us? One answer is that it invites us to express our true self as the Christ reveals, to be a "living stone" in the structure of Church. It also affords us opportunity us to see the Christliness of those in our church, the community and the world, indeed to see the universality of the Christ, that "Christ is all, and in all." (Col 3:11)

We each have an individual office in the Christ, our own special way of expressing the Christ and Church is the structure is which that office is framed. In the Bible we find some of the infinite possibilities of our unique office enumerated, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (Eph 4:11-13)

Whatever form our church work takes, whether we are a Reader, Sunday School teacher, on the lecture committee, or ushering, it's all about living the Christ and that lifts us "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Even if you think you are too ill or too old, praying for the world can be done in a bed or an arm chair. It's where our thought is that counts. How wonderful to,"... solemnly promise to watch, and pray for that Mind to be in us which was also in Christ Jesus; to do unto others as we would have them do unto us; and to be merciful, just, and pure." (S&H 497). As we humbly do this, we find the aliveness of Christ in our heart and therefore the aliveness of Church in our experience!