

Asset or Liability
Rev 2:4
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want us to consider if we are a true asset to the church or a liability.

Intro

A. Most of us are familiar with the principle of bookkeeping

1. We have, assets and liabilities
2. When liabilities outweigh assets, we have a problem.

B. People in a company, or in religion, may be an asset, or a liability.

1. Too many liabilities make it impossible for either to succeed.
2. There are many in the Lord's church today who are liabilities to the cause of Christ.
 - a. Many are hurting or hindering the church
 - b. It is assets, NOT liabilities that will cause the Lord's church to grow.

I. Are we zealous for good works or are we comfortable where we are?

1. Asset: Zealous Worker

- a. We are an asset to the church if we are willing workers in the kingdom.
- b. 2 Corinthians 9:2
- c. We are an asset to the Lord's church through our zeal for good works for several reasons:
 - 1) We provoke or encourage others to do the same, Hebrews 10:24
 - 2) The Lord's work is accomplished
 - a) Wishing won't get the job done
 - b) Waiting for someone else to do it won't do it either
 - d. Notice these biblical examples of zealous workers:
 - 1) Nehemiah 4:21
 - 2) This occurred because "the people had a mind to work" (Neh. 4:6)

2. Liability: Lukewarm Church Member

- a. We are a horrible liability to the Lord's cause if we are lukewarm or halfhearted about the Lord's work.
- b. Notice what the Lord says about luke warmness, Revelation 3:16
- c. When we halfheartedly go about doing the work of the Lord we are a liability to the church because:
 - 1) We discourage others
 - 2) We are showing our children the Lord is not all that important
 - 3) The Lord's work is not accomplished

II. Are we a liberal giver or covetous?

1. Asset: Liberal Giver

- a. Romans 12:1
- b. 2 Cor 8:1-4

c. We are an asset when we give liberally because:

- 1) We have proven that we have given ourselves wholly unto the Lord
- 2) We help the Lord's work
- 3) We show concern for the Lord's work

2. Liability: courteousness

a. Ephesians 5:5

b. Hebrews 13:5

c. We are a liability to the Lord's cause when we are covetous because:

- 1) We are robbing God (Mal. 3:8)
- 2) We are putting what the world has to offer above what God has to offer
- 3) Our heart is not right before the Lord

III. Are you faithful or a forsaker?

1. Asset: Faithful

a. Matthew 25:21

b. 1 Corinthians 4:2

c. Revelation 2:10

d. We are an asset to the church if we are faithful because:

- 1) We will not allow things to go undone
- 2) We will believe, do and teach that which is in accordance with God's will
- 3) We will help the church to grow

2. Liability: Forsaker

a. Hebrews 10:25

b. We are a liability to the church if we are a forsaker because:

- 1) We fail to exhort one another
- 2) We fail to manifest Jesus in our lives
- 3) We tear down the church

IV. Do you study or are you ignorant of God's Word?

1. Asset: Studious

a. 2 Timothy 2:15

b. 2 Timothy 3:14

c. 1 Timothy 4:13

d. We are assets to the Lord's church when we are studious because:

- 1) We know truth from error
- 2) We understand what we are to do to be pleasing unto to God
- 3) God's word will work in us

2. Liability: Ignorance

a. 2 Peter 3:5 – "willfully forget"

b. Romans 10:3 "being ignorant"

c. We are a liability to the church when we are ignorant of God's word because:

- 1) We fail to understand the very basics of Christianity
- 2) We will be swept into error
- 3) We will do thing our own way and not the Lord's

4) We will weaken the church

V. Are we an example or a reproach to the church?

1. Asset: Example

a. 1 Timothy 4:12 –“but be an example”

b. Matthew 5:16 –“glorify your Father in heaven”

c. We are an asset to the church if we are a good example because:

- 1) We encourage others to faithfulness
- 2) We teach
- 3) We can win lost souls to Christ

2. Liability: Reproach

a. Proverbs 14:34

b. When we are a reproach to the church men will “blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called” (James 2:7)

c. We are a liability to the church if we are reproach because:

- 1) We lower moral standards in the church and community
- 2) We set a bad example
- 3) We cause men to look down on the Lord’s church

Concl:

A. Are you an asset or a liability to the church here?

B. Do you come with a solution or are you part of the problem?