

Who Needs Church? (PART 1)

I found this article about attending church, WHO NEEDS TO GO TO CHURCH? "I can get close to God without going to church"...well, here are 5 reasons why attending church IS IMPORTANT:

1. It's about the giving, not the receiving.

All of us, at least once, have said to ourselves: "Worship is boring and long and irrelevant -- what am I really getting out of it?" So it's no surprise our teens are asking the same question. But it's the wrong question. A better one is: "What am I really adding to the service -- am I helping others get something out of this?"

We can reflect, meditate, pray, and even study the Bible alone. But we can't function as Christ's body alone. Simply, church is not about meeting personal needs, it's about what we're offering God as a community of Christians. It's not just someone's good idea; it's God's good idea.

2. It's all about relationship-building.

Jesus promised that whenever two or three of us gather, he'd be in our midst. Of course, we can experience God's presence when we're alone -- Jesus often went off by himself. But he made a special point to encourage us to gather in his name -- it's always foolish to ignore something Jesus told us to do. It's the difference between eating a TV dinner while standing over your sink and hanging out at the Taco Palace with your friends and staying long after the burritos have vaporized. You talk. Bonds build. Friendships cement. Do a Bible study on Acts 2:41-46, and then talk about the crucial role of "gathering" in the Christian life.

3. We must learn to live with others' differences and unify around our common commitments.

The subtle and overlooked message of the "Wherever two or three of you are gathered..." passage is the directive to simply love one another through our differences by gathering. In this disconnected culture, teenagers have few opportunities to live and love with people who are radically different in age, interest, and perspective than them. Church offers them a chance to connect with others around a common set of desires and commitments. Many churches have a "collect" printed in the bulletin on Sunday mornings. The idea comes from a traditional prayer that collect-ed the celebrations and concerns of the congregation. The barriers between us would grow if we "give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing..." (Hebrews 10:25).

4. God is the audience, not us.

We call it a worship service, but a more accurate description for what most of us do today is something like a "spiritual show." I think many teenagers equate churchgoing with going to the movies. It's a performance, and their role is to give it a thumbs-up or thumbs-down. We treat our worship service like our favorite TV program. As long as the show is entertaining and the characters and story capture us, we'll stay tuned. But if it loses its edge, we'll flip to another channel, another show. The best way to turn the show into a worship experience is to get our teenagers deeply involved in the service. They can read the Scriptures, create responsive readings, do the corporate prayer, create PowerPoint slides for the sermon, plan and perform short dramas, and more. If they own it, they'll participate. Once they see God as the audience, the purpose for gathering changes.

5. Worship creates opportunities for connections with God.

Our teenagers crave a relationship with God -- every poll and survey, secular and Christian-- says so. But you can't connect with someone if the two of you are sitting in a dark room with paper bags over your heads. We need opportunities for clear, open lines of communication so we can open up to God. And a good worship service creates those opportunities through its formal or informal "liturgy."

Sometimes I really need to be reminded as to WHY I'm attending church...or why I even need to. Overall, it's not about us, it's about GOD!!!

Media New Album Releases

W20 Youth Ministry
Rock wall Free Methodists Church



October 6th:
Relient K: Forget And Not Slow Down

Family Force 5: Family Force 5
Christmas Pageant



October 20th:
Kutless: It is Well

October 27th:

Flyleaf: Memento Mori



November 3rd:
Shane and Shane: Everything is Different

November 10th:

Switchfoot: Hello Hurricane



November 17th:
Jeremy Camp: Live

Casting Crowns: Until the Whole World
Hears

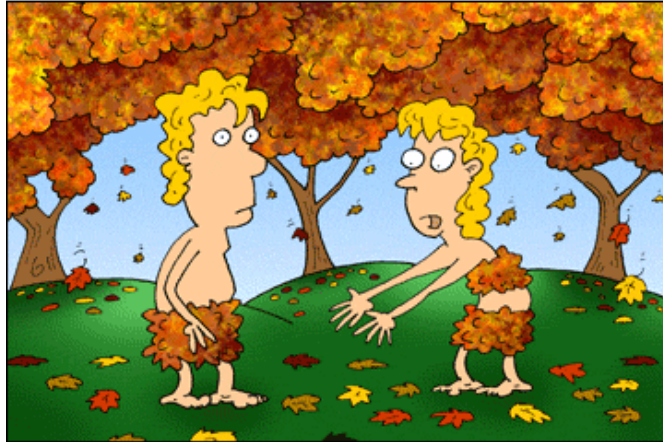


Believe It or Not!

1. Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.
2. Alfred Hitchcock didn't have a belly button.
3. When you sneeze, all bodily functions stop, even your heart!
4. The average person over 50 will have spent five years waiting in lines.
5. 40,000 Americans are injured by toilets each year.

Entertainment

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WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?

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GOOD THING I FOUND YOU GIDEON ... IT SEEMS SOMEONE HAS BEEN HIDING ALL YOUR BIBLES IN HOTEL ROOMS

As Smart As You Are, I Bet You Didn't Know...

1. Coca-Cola was originally green.
2. $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$
3. The State with the highest % of people who walk to work: *Alaska*
4. Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury.

Unusual Wisdom

1. The first Ten Commandments are the hardest.
2. Why are lawyers not sworn to tell the truth like all the witnesses in a jury trial?
3. Never fear shadows... they simply mean there's a light shining somewhere nearby.

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Thanks to Dan

ANOTHER ESKIMO BAPTISM GONE BAD

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WEEKLY MINDS BY SPENDING CHURCH