

True Fellowship Holiness Church

Bible Study

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What Does the Bible Say About Attending Church?

I often hear so called Christians who are disillusioned with the thought of going to church. Bad experiences have left a bitter taste in their mouths and in most cases they've given up entirely on the practice of attending a local church.

The Bible tells us to meet together as believers and to encourage one another.

Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV)

The number one reason to encourage Christians to find a good church is because the Bible instructs us to be in relationship with other believers. If we are part of Christ's body, we will recognize our need to fit into the body of believers. [The church](#) is the place where we come together to encourage one another as members of Christ's body. Together we fulfill an important purpose on the Earth.

As members of the body of Christ, we belong to each other.

Romans 12:5

... so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (NIV)

It is for our own good that God want us in fellowship with other believers. We need each other to grow up in the faith, to learn to serve, to love one another, to exercise our spiritual gifts, and to practice [forgiveness](#).

Although we are individuals, we still belong to one another.

When you give up on attending church, what's at stake?

Well, to put it in a nutshell: the unity of the body, your own [spiritual growth](#), protection, and blessing are all at risk when you're disconnected from the [body of Christ](#). Simply put, there's no such thing as a stay at home Christian.

Christ's body is made of many parts, yet it is still one unified entity.

1 Corinthians 12:12

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 12:14-23

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (NIV)

Unity in the body of Christ does not mean total conformity and uniformity. Although maintaining unity in the body is very important, it is also vital to value the unique qualities that make each of us an individual "part" of the body. Both aspects, unity and individuality, deserve emphasis and appreciation. This makes for a healthy church body, when we remember that Christ is our common denominator. He makes us one.

We develop the character of Christ through bearing with one another in the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:2

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

(NIV)

How else will we grow spiritually unless we interact with other believers? We learn humility, gentleness and patience, [developing the character of Christ](#) as we relate within the body of Christ.

In the body of Christ we exercise our [spiritual gifts](#) to serve and minister to one another.

1 Peter 4:10

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (NIV)

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (NIV)

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (NIV)

We will discover a satisfying sense of fulfillment when we begin to carry out [our purpose](#) in the body of Christ. We are the ones who miss out on all the blessings of God and the gifts of our "family members," if we choose not to be a part of Christ's body.

Need One More Reason to Go to Church?

[Jesus Christ](#), our living example, went to church as a regular practice. Luke 4:16 says, "He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the [Sabbath day](#) he went into the synagogue, as was his custom." (NIV)

It was Jesus' *custom*—his regular practice—to go to church. *The Message* Bible puts it like this, "As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place." If Jesus made it a priority to meet together with other believers, shouldn't we, as his followers, do so also?

Are you frustrated and disillusioned with church? Perhaps the problem is not "church in general," but rather the type of churches you have experienced so far.

Have you done an exhaustive [search to find a good church](#)? Perhaps you have never attended a healthy, [balanced](#) Christian church? They really do exist. Don't give up. Continue to search for a Christ-centered, biblically-balanced church. As you search, remember, churches are imperfect. They are full of flawed people. However, we can't let other people's mistakes keep us from a genuine relationship with God and all of the blessings he has planned for us as we relate within his body.