



Bible Study Lesson- 6:30p.m.

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Why Church?

An intentional look at the theological (scriptural), sociological, psychological, and cultural implication on why or why not people attend church vs. taking part in church.

Disclaimer: *This lesson is not intended to shame, judge or discourage those that are irregular attendees of church, nor is it intended to glorify regular attendees. This lesson will be a deeper look and discussion to help us better understand the purpose of the gathering of God's people.*

The Early Church

Most Christians may be surprised to know that irregular attendance in church is not a new concept. The early church wrestler struggled with trying to get people to attend church regularly. The early fathers of the church preached about it often due to the lack of interest, work and other family obligations, social obligations, skepticism, and disagreements within the faith.

The early church fathers were not preaching about church attendance to get more people in church, but rather the importance of gathering because it was important for individuals' spiritual development and overall spiritual growth.

Purpose of this lesson: The question is not; do I need to go to church? The deeper question that we should ask ourselves, what kind of person am I becoming when I disconnect myself from a community that God designed to help shape me, challenge me, encourage me and to be used for his purpose?

What does the Bible say?

Hebrews 10: 24–25 and let us consider one another to provoke unto love to good works. Not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together.

Notice the writer did not say stop not coming to church, but the writer starts off by saying let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Church is not just about attending and being present, but it is also about what somebody else gets because we showed up.

Church is not just a place. It is a people.

Acts 2:42-47

1 Corinthians 12:12–27

The research says that people are attending less.

The decline in church attendance is not simply due to Covid. There were declines in many churches across the country starting pre-Covid due to the shift in culture. Some would argue that there was a decline pre-Covid due to people's lack of trust in the church, church hurt, routine worship, work obligations, and family obligations, and lack of trust in leadership. However, this is a case-by-case understanding.



Psychologically: there is a lot of research that connects religious church attendance and participation with better social skills, purpose, and overall psychological well-being.

Disclaimer: *I am not suggesting that attending church is the answer to all psychological situations.*

Belonging, Purpose, Identity, Accountability, Connection/Relationships

Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 2:10, 1 Peter 2:9; Galatians 6:1-2; Galatians 6:2; 1 Corinthians 12

Culturally: Is watching church online the same as taking part in church?

People that prefer in person worship often describe the relational connection and fellowship as something that they really appreciate about being physically in church.

Why would someone want to come?

Are we giving people a healthy community worth being a part of?

What do our churches give people?

Do we go to church because we need God or is it because God needs us in community together?

1 Thessalonians 5:11

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