

the Christian atheist

The Christian Atheist

You say you believe in God. Do you really? Do you live your life as if God is in the room, or do you assume He's not paying attention? You call yourself a Christian. Are you who you say you are?

In this multiple week series, we will challenge each other to confront hypocrisy, challenge ourselves, and live a life that brings glory to Christ.

The Christian Atheist – Week 12

Believing in God, But Not in His Church?

Big Idea

You may be able to follow Jesus personally—but you cannot follow Him fully apart from His Church.

1. God's Design: We Are One Body

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12–27

- The Church is not an event you attend—it's a body you belong to
- Everyone has a role — you are necessary
- Everyone is connected — you affect others
- Everyone is responsible — we care for one another

Truth:

Disconnected Christians don't just miss out—they cause something to be missing.

2. Why People Walk Away

- Many leave not because of theology, but because of relationships
- Hurt, hypocrisy, judgment, and disconnection are real struggles

Biblical Guidance:

- Address conflict directly (Matthew 18)
- Practice forgiveness (Matthew 6:15)
- Show grace and love (Colossians 3:13–15)
- Confess and pray together (James 5:16)

Truth:

The church isn't perfect—but it is still God's plan.

3. Going to Church vs. Being the Church

Going to Church	Being the Church
Consumer	Contributor
Spectator	Participant
Weekly event	Daily calling
About me	About others

Key Question:

What would happen if those who criticize the church became the church?

4. Living a Fully Surrendered Faith

Text: Matthew 16:24–26

- **Line 1 Faith:** Believe enough to benefit

- **Line 2 Faith:** Believe enough to contribute comfortably
- **Line 3 Faith:** Believe enough to give your life

Truth:

Jesus didn't die so we could believe casually—He died so we could live fully surrendered.

Anchor: Acts 20:24

5. Final Challenge

- Where am I living—Line 1, Line 2, or Line 3?
- What step can I take toward deeper commitment?
- Who will help keep me accountable?

Next Steps:

- Re-engage in the church
 - Reconcile where there is hurt
 - Rebuild by using your gifts
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Closing Thought

You can believe in God without the church—but you cannot fully live out your faith without it.

The Church isn't perfect, but it is God's plan to change lives.

Prayer Focus

- Healing from church hurt
- Courage to re-engage
- Strength to live a fully surrendered faith

Scriptures Used (NLT – New Living Translation)

- **1 Corinthians 12:12–27** – The body of Christ
- **Matthew 18:15–16** – Resolving conflict
- **Matthew 6:15** – Forgiveness
- **Colossians 3:13–15** – Bearing with and forgiving one another
- **James 5:16** – Confession and prayer
- **Matthew 16:24–26** – Taking up your cross
- **Acts 20:24** – A life fully surrendered