

Why Do We Come to Church?

Introduction

In a time when churches compete with entertainment, convenience, and online content, we must ask a simple but important question:

Why do we come to church?

Is it habit?

Is it tradition?

Or is it something far deeper?

1. We Come to Church to Meet with Christ

People today are searching for something **transcendent**—something beyond themselves.

They are not looking for just another **coffee shop with music and a lecture**.

Much of what some churches offer today can already be found elsewhere:

- You can get a good cup of coffee at **Starbucks**.
- You can listen to lectures at **Barnes & Noble**.
- You can watch sermons on **YouTube**.

But there is one thing those places cannot offer:

A sacred, holy, eternity-altering relationship with the Creator of the universe.

Church exists so that people may encounter **the living Christ**.

A Word About the Younger Generation

You often hear people complain about “kids these days,” but here is something important to understand:

1. **They are hungry for the Spirit of God.**
Many young people are being told that Christianity is simply a moral framework about how to be a good person—no different from any other religion.
2. **What they truly need is the Gospel.**
We must preach:
 - **Christ**
 - **Christ crucified**
 - **Christ risen from the dead**

That is the message that **changes lives**.

2. We Come to Church to Be the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:14–31

The church is not just a gathering of individuals.
It is **the Body of Christ**.

Imagine a sports team where half the players attend practice remotely.
That team is not going to win anything.

Paul often compares the Christian life to **athletic discipline**.

1 Corinthians 9:24–25

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize?
Run in such a way as to get the prize.”

Being part of Christ’s body requires commitment, effort, and presence.

Bearing One Another’s Burdens (Galatians 6:2–5)

“Carry each other’s burdens... for each one should carry their own load.”

There is an important distinction in the Greek language:

- **Load** refers to a **personal pack**, like a soldier carries.
- **Burden** refers to something **too heavy for one person alone**.

Church is where we help carry what others cannot carry by themselves.

3. We Come to Church to Worship God

Romans 12:1–2

“Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

In heaven, the angels are not **watching a livestream** of the throne room.

They are there.

Worship is not meant to be distant or detached. It is meant to be **participated in**.

Think of it this way:

- All week long we are **studying the playbook**.
- But **Sunday is game day**.

We gather together to worship God as His people.

A Challenge About Church Commitment

Today, many people choose churches based on preference:

- “I don’t like their worship.”
- “That preacher isn’t very good.”
- “I prefer a different style.”

But how often do we ask a deeper question?

“Where is God calling me to be?”

What if church membership is not simply a consumer choice?

What if God has **placed you somewhere intentionally?**

What if leaving isn’t just a personal preference—but a spiritual decision that requires discernment?

Jesus even said:

Matthew 5:23–24

“If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there... First go and be reconciled to them.”

Church is not just about attending—it is about **relationships, reconciliation, and commitment.**