

QUIT GOING TO CHURCH!

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The Church Is Not Just A Place That I Go To, But A Spiritual Family That I Belong To.

*When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"*

*"Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah,
and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."*

Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

*Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John,
because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you.
You did not learn this from any human being.*

*Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock
I will build My church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.*

Matthew 16:13-18 (NLT)

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Ekklesia means: "Called out" ones. An assembly or gathering of people.

Misconceptions of what church is:

- The church is not a place or a building, it's a **people!**
- The church is not a human institution, it's the **bride of Christ!**
- The church is not a museum for saints, it's a **hospital for sinners!**
- The church is not a cruise ship, it's a **battleship!**
- The church is not a product you consume, it's a **family you belong and contribute to!**

Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build My church, and all *the powers of hell will not conquer it.*

Matthew 16:18 (NLT)

Why you need to be planted in a church family:

1. Because God *requires* it.

*And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **not forsaking our own assembling together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NASB)

2. Because we were created for *community*.

*Then God said, "Let **us** make human beings in **our** image, to be like us.*

Genesis 1:26a (NLT)

*God decided in advance to **adopt us into his own family** by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. **Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)***

Common Excuses For Not Joining A Church

- "I've been disappointed or hurt"
- "I don't have to be a part of a church in order to be saved."
- "There are a bunch of hypocrites in the church."
- "I'm still looking for the perfect church home."
- "Church membership is not important to God."