

WHEN CHURCH...HURTS

By Pastor Lee Allen Jenkins

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Church Hurt is...

The pain inflicted by a religious institution
and/or the people within a religious institution.

If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were rising against me, I could hide. But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship at the house of God, as we walked about among the worshipers. Psalms 55:12-14 (NIV)

**We can be hurt by the church, but we can't quit the church.
That is simply not an option for followers of Christ.**

In response to all he has done for us, let us outdo each other in being helpful and kind to each other and in doing good. Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (TLB)

**Anyone can love the ideal church.
The challenge is loving the real church.**
(Pastor Leonce Crump)

How To Protect Yourself From Church Hurt:

1. Don't expect the church to be perfect.
2. Extend grace to your leaders and don't put them on a pedestal.
3. Don't place absolute trust in people.

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from Him. Psalm 62:5 (NIV)

4. Avoid blaming the church for your personal problems.
5. Don't get caught up in the offenses of others.
6. Don't allow a negative experience to cause you to drift away from God.
7. Don't judge all churches by the actions of one church.

8. Show love and forgiveness to the church that hurt you.

*Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, **just as** God through Christ has forgiven you. **Ephesians 4:32 (NLT)***

