

Statistics say that only 38% of the community sees the need for the church.

How many of you were led to Christ by someone who did not attend a church?

The church is not a place it is the people. The church is not an organization it is an organism.

In the New Testament people who placed their faith in Jesus also placed their feet in a local church.

Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. Acts 2:46-47

An act of refusing to continue to follow, obey, or recognize a commitment made to a religious faith. To abandon what one was previously loyal too. To defect, withdraw or fall away from what one once believed in.

*For in the case of those who have once been **enlightened** and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come Hebrews 6:4-5*

And then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. Hebrews 6:6

When people leave the church it sends a message to the unchurched that Jesus was not enough.

*Remember the former days, after being **enlightened**, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. Hebrews 10:32-33*

You showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has great reward. Hebrews 10:34-35

When people leave the church it sends a message to the unchurched that Jesus was not enough.

Believing in Jesus Christ is not the same as being in Jesus Christ.

***Let us** throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and **let us** run with perseverance the race marked out for us. **Let us** fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2*

Believing in Jesus is about enlightenment. Being in Jesus is about perseverance, individually and corporately.

They were not persevering during persecution.

Consider Christ who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:4

They were not persevering in maturity as they should have been.

By this time, you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. Hebrews 5:12

They were not persevering in their relationship with Jesus but were seeking a religion that was comfortable.

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God. Hebrews 10:19-21

So, what steps do we need to take to avoid the negativity that comes with apostasy?

“Hermey said I am an independent, Rudolph said I will be an independent too, both said well then let's be independent together.”

Independently and corporately drawing near with a sincere heart.

Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:22

Independently and corporately holding fast the confession of our hope.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23

Independently and corporately stimulating one another to love and good deeds.

Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:24

The primary activity of the church was one-anothering one another. Andy Stanley

Independently and corporately not forsaking our assembly.

Let us not forsake 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 10:25