

I'm a Christian, Why Should I Go to Church?

By Karen Sue Nyquist

There are many people who believe in God and have asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior, but they are not going to church. Why? They have various reasons.

1. Common reasons for not attending church:

"I don't have time, Sunday is **my only day** to relax and ..."

"I have **so many bills** and **so much work** to do, I can't ..."

"After working and doing everything all week, **I'm too tired** ..."

"I prefer to **worship God alone**, I don't need go to ..."

"I can just watch on line, I don't need to go ..."



2. God says we should have one day a week dedicated to

Him. - "Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day *is* a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation (*a formal assembly of people*). You shall do no work *on it*; it *is* the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings" (Leviticus 23:3).

Why do Christians go to church on Sunday and not on Saturday, the Sabbath? -

The Holy Spirit led the early church to do so. "So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon **or sabbaths**, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ" (Colossians 2:16-17). His Spirit blesses our gatherings on Sundays, so we know that we are pleasing the Lord. One day a week belongs to God, not to us. On that day, we need to meet together to worship Him. He also knows that we need one day to rest our bodies and minds, so He tells us not to work on that day. **REST! RELAX! RECUPERATE!**

3. But, what about . . . ? - Often our reasons for not going to church are because we are not really trusting God to meet our needs. "And my **God shall supply all your need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). "**Trust in the Lord** with all your heart, And **lean not on your own understanding**; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). With God's help, we can have the time, the money, and the strength that we need.

4. Will we obey? - God is watching our response to His word. Will we obey? Will we put Him first? Jesus said, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This *is* the first commandment" (Mark 12:30). Jesus also said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15).

5. Why does God want us to go to church anyway?

a. We go to church to praise and worship God. - "Praise the Lord! Praise God **in His sanctuary**; Praise Him in His mighty firmament!" (Psalm 150:1). "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, **I am there in the midst of them**" (Matthew 18:20). When we worship in His sanctuary and with others, there is an added dimension of His presence and His power. While at church we worship and praise God together through:

1) Prayer - "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations" (Mark 11:17),

2) Singing - "So they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped" (2 Chronicles 29:30),

3) Bible Study - "Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes" (Psalm 119:11-12),

4) Partaking in the Lord's Supper - Jesus said, "Take, eat; this is My body, which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me" (1 Corinthians 11:24),

5) Financial Giving - "On the first *day* of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come" (1 Corinthians 16:2 - also Acts 20:7; 11:26; 1 Corinthians 14:15; 16:2.)

b. We go to church to receive teaching and preaching of God's Word. -

“And He Himself (*Jesus*) gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry**, for the edifying (*building up, making stronger*) of the body of Christ, (Ephesians 4:11-12).

c. We go to church to grow and minister to others - “... the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint (*every person*) supplies, according to the effective working by which **every part does its share**, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:16). It is God’s plan that we learn His Word in church, then we teach and minister to those who are already saved and to those who need salvation. He does not intend for us to be independent Christians, not attached to a body of believers, and not serving others in and through the church. When we are serving others, winning souls, etc., we are being fruitful. Remember Jesus’ parable about the sower? “Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful” (Mark 4:18-19).

d. We go to church to be strengthened so as not to become lukewarm or even backslide - Not going to church is DANGEROUS! It’s a slippery slope!

* **1st Missing Church** - “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

* **2nd Self-Confident** - “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12).

* **3rd - Leave First Love** - “Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that **you have left your first love**. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent and do the first works**, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent” (Revelation 2:4-5).

* **4th - Lukewarm** - Jesus said, “So then, because you are **lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth” (Revelation 3:16).

* **5th - Backslidden** - “For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, **if they fall away**, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify

again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:4-6).

5. Let’s do the first works again. Let’s go back to church. “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord’ ” (Psalm 122:1).

6. If you have decided to start attending church again, then here is a suggested prayer: Dear Jesus, I know that I have been disobeying You by not going to church. I am so sorry and ask for Your forgiveness. Please, help me keep this commitment. Lead me to a good church. I will trust that You will provide all my needs. Help me also to regain my first love for you. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen! Name _____ Date _____

You may call us for encouragement and help in your walk with the Lord Jesus.

GOD BLESS YOU! NationTakers Ministries

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