

Fellowship ~ Family
Community ~ Love
Center of Everything

Why do you “go” to church ...??

Ephesians 2:17-22

He came and proclaimed the **good news** of peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through Him **we both** have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So, then, you are **no longer** foreigners and strangers, but **fellow citizens** with the **saints**, and **members** of God’s household, ²⁰built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the **cornerstone**. ²¹In Him the whole building, being put together, grows into a **holy temple** in the Lord. ²²In Him you are **also** being built together **for God’s dwelling in the Spirit**.

Key Points:

- God is building a community (WE) → church
- We all want an identity, to belong, and to have access
- We also are pretty big “me” people → conflict

The church is the **epicenter** of God’s presence, activity and purpose.
(*actualized by the Holy Spirit*)

Relate to the church at level of personal **convenience/inconvenience**
OR
the level of **holy conviction**.

1) The Holy Spirit’s **work** culminates and apexes in the **church**.

The Gospel does not merely save individuals.
The Holy Spirit does not isolate individuals.
Jesus is not just my personal Lord & Savior.

Why?

The plan of God in the **Trinity** → ALWAYS & FOREVER **WE**

Genesis 1:26 (NIV)

Then God said, “Let **us** make mankind in **our** image, in **our** likeness ...

The glory of God the Son as the **great transformer & uniter**. → FAMILY LIKENESS

Colossians 3:10-14

... put on the new self. You are being **renewed in knowledge** according to the **image of your Creator**.¹¹ In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and **in all**.

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, **put on** compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. ¹⁴Above all, **put on** love, which is the perfect bond of **unity**.

2) The **fullness of God (Psalm 16:11; Eph 3:19) is most **consistently and supremely** known in and through the **church**.**

The Holy Spirit does not fully dwell in any **one of us**; He dwells **fully in all of us**.

Plan A or Plan B, C, D, E ... ???

Have we really come to church?

- a) Common goal to pursue → God!
- b) Role to play
- c) Danger ...

The church is not a **democracy** but a **manifestation** of the Kingdom and **participation** in the Family.

- a) We prioritize our desire for an experience or a solution to a felt need OVER the objective, ongoing & eternal goals of the Holy Spirit.
- b) Our emotional narcissism can cause us to use methods to “produce” the desired result that are not of the Spirit.

3) God **defines the church by the **truth** and by His **presence**; therefore, we should settle for **nothing less**!**

How much of God do we want ...? Do we need ...?

Living our Convictions Corporately:

- a) Develop a **God-ward mindset**
 - i. → Casual but not careless
 - ii. → The Call to Worship
- b) **Expectancy** ... for God!!
 - i. → Countdown ...
- c) **Engaged** →

d) **Excited** for diversity & differences

e) Be **burdened** for “**Who also ...**”

f) One **prayer** ...

May the Holy Spirit be the dominant and decisive presence in my life and in my church.