



General Topics :: Did you attend church today?

Did you attend church today? - posted by PJ, on: 2003/8/3 14:25

Just wondering if you went to church today? If so...
 What kind?
 How many attend on a typical Sunday?
 Did you go out of duty or desire?
 Were you challenged?
 Was anyone saved?
 Do you serve in any capacity?
 What is the worship style?
 Are most of the people in you church serious about the things of God?
 Do you feel that your church is moving in or out of the right direction?

If you did not attend church today...Why?

Just Curious
 PJ

Re: Did you attend church today? - posted by PJ, on: 2003/8/3 14:49

Yes I attended church today?
 I attend and Assemblies of God Church.
 We have about 700 people on a typical Sunday morning. This is between two morning services.
 I am the full time children's pastor at this church so Sunday is typically more of a work day for me than a day of rest. Most of the time I attend out of duty. As a full time staff member I have forgotten what it feels like just to attend because I want to.
 Our church has a very good blend of old hymns and choruses as well as new material.
 I work for a Pastor who loves the Lord and is not afraid to preach the word. However I rarely get to hear him preach (I am responsible for children's services during all worship services).
 He will preach the uncompromised word of God, however I don't think repentance is often preached as a condition of salvation. Most of our conversions are the typical modern day conversions. It's nothing for people to "get saved" and continue living in fornication or any other old sin.
 We do have a lot of good Christian people in our church, but few who have fire shut up in their bones. Today I heard a lot about golf in the halls and very little about the Lord or the things of God.
 We are a growing church but it's more out of transfer vs. new converts. It's one of the better churches that I have ever been a part of, yet I think we are not very purpose driven.

Re: Did you attend church today? - posted by mikesaad, on: 2003/8/3 15:23

My wife kids and I attended church today. We attend a non-denominational church about an hour northeast of Detroit. We typically have around 100 people for a Sunday service.

I lead worship this morning as I am in a rotation with a few other worship leaders as well. My wife and I are singles group leaders at the church as well so much of our time after service is taken up with talking with the singles in our group.

I attended church this morning and was challenged by the message that our Pastor gave "Having Singleness of Heart". No one was saved as a result of the message today as it was more of an exhortation to believers to stay focused on Christ.

Re: Did you attend church today? - posted by crsschk (), on: 2003/8/3 15:49

O.K., I'll bite.

Confession time.

No, I didn't go...

Why?

Torn, debated whether it was better to stay at home with my wife (who has been dealing with her own struggles, stomach problems, spiritual) or just go ahead and go, which would you have me do Lord? Was my question this morning.....Unsure, so I opted to stay home, watched Charles Stanley and Adrian Rogers, both of whom were excellent by the way. Kind of a long story but our particular church is now in search of a new pastor, transition time. Mens bible study on Thurs. (missed that as well this week, 'felt' that I just needed to stay home and pray)....So, our church is alright, have been there about a year now, kind of laid back, but loving.....worship is a mix of traditional and contemporary...non-denominational.....theology; along side the Cambelites, New Testament Church/ Acts paradigm minus the more Charismatic elements (Raised hands are about as far as expressions ago and maybe a few 'Amen's") I do believe changes are in store though from some of the sense I can gather in regards to becoming a praying church, which I hope it becomes! Don't really know enough to even venture a guess where people are spiritually....I have seen an incredible amount of love, serving and caring and have been a recipient of such myself, I can only hope to come along side and do the same.

Seems to me that right now is a time of purging, it's almost as if you could smell the rotting of flesh (mine!)and I would be glad for it to be done with even though I realize the necessity.

It has the elements of a satanic attack, confusion, doubt, depression, the usual darts...

A muddy mixture of the big 3, the world, the flesh and the devil.

Whatever it may be, I can only pray that it does it's full work, consumes it ALL! I long to escape this body of death, this rebellious nature, this dual nature, this DISOBEDIENCE!

Death to self, self will, self rule, self seeking.

Your will, Your words, Your thoughts, Oh Lord!

Replacement theology, that's what I need, mine for Your's, Oh God.

S.O.S. **Sick Of Sin**

Whew! Feel better already :lol: !!

Not really looking for a 'word' to lift my spirits or to try and amass some sympathy, hopefully the Lord will turn up the furnace 7 times hotter and burn it all.

So how's your day, PJ ? ! :-D :-D :-D

Seriously, in response to the questions you asked, how would you respond to them? Would love to hear!

Didn't mean to spill my gut's out all over the place, it's kind of messy that way...But you asked!

:-P

P.S. As I went to post this I noticed you had already responded, so I am adding this edit, will be praying for you and your church!

_/crsschk\

Re: - posted by laholmes, on: 2003/8/3 15:56

I attended church today in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. It is about an hour north of Tulsa, about 15 minutes from Kansas. I am the summer interim youth pastor and today was my second to last Sunday before I go back to Edmond (OKC) to school. I do not have a job to go back to, so prayer would be appreciated.

It is a southern baptist church. This morning's message was about prayer. It was awesome. There was about 250 there in the service. No one was saved but some people joined, which in a Baptist church is just as good. (Ha Ha) It is contemporary/blended with a leaning toward contemporary.

The church is moving in the right direction. It is a small community and the people there are great. However, the best people in our churches are still not very good, in my opinion.

Re: Did you attend church today? - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2003/8/3 16:23

What kind?

ITs Peoples Church in Toronto, Canada. www.thepeopleschurch.ca

Non-Denominational, I think (but very close ties with the Missionary Alliance)

How many attend on a typical Sunday?

There are 3 services, 2 in the morning one at night. the morning service at 9:15 is not televised so I like that one better!
:P

Did you go out of duty or desire?

desire! Its about 45mins to 1 hour by transit, its a journey but I am enjoying going.

Were you challenged?

Yes! There are alot of great old saints in that church, the sermon was about end-times theology but it did challange me to seek more after Jesus and his coming and to **life holy!!!!** in respect to his coming back.

Was anyone saved?

There is a call to people who want to go after the service to the room for prayer. but its not a showy thing and I am not sure if people were saved?

Do you serve in any capacity?

I usually go to Knox Presbyterian Church where I am a full-time member, but I have been going to Peoples Church quite abit recently. The pastor at People church:

(<http://www.therevivalweneed.com/xoops/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid140>) Charles Price is an awesome expostitor and is a man full of the spirit of God! I love his humble teachings and passion for God. he spoke at the Keswick 2003 this year, check out the archives while they are still up at: (<http://www.premier.org.uk/keswicklibrary.html>) premier.org.uk (they are 5 great messages on hebrews! its a must listen to!)

What is the worship style?

Its pretty good, kinda more contempary they try to mix in a few hymns sometimes. I wish they would still sing more hymns but overall its a good vibrant worship, not like people dancing or hands raised that much, but still vibrant! :)

Are most of the people in you church serious about the things of God?

Well it seems alot of the church are really serious with God and where under the teachings of

(<http://www.therevivalweneed.com/xoops/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid9>) Oswald J. Smith who originally started the church. Its a very missions minded church!

Do you feel that your church is moving in or out of the right direction?

Well Peoples church I think is doing great! but my home church Knox Presbyterian I believe needs a revival amongst many of the members of the church. The church is right downtown and could be used mightly of God,

(<http://www.therevivalweneed.com/xoops/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid13>) J. Glyn Owen used to preach there in the 60's and 70's and the church was spiritually in alot better shape then.

Re: Did you attend church today?, on: 2003/8/3 16:33

Yes, I attended Church today. I did not attend my home church today, instead I visited a large non-denominational church known as "The Peoples Church" in Toronto.

Since it has only been my second visit so I'm taking a rough estimate that 250 - 500 on average attend per service. They have 3 services, 2 in the morning and 1 in the evening. I've only been to the morning services.

I attended because I felt called to go and I also out of desire. I like the congregation but I do not attend regularly because of its location.

The worship style is generally contemporary with a mixture or traditional hymns so its got a good balance of both.

I was challenged by the sermon: "*The Second Coming of Christ.*" The pastor gave a very general overview of the major millenial views. It was like an extact repeat of a particular lecture in my Intro to Christian Theology course.

This is a general assumption because I don't know the congregation very well but I would say that it seems be serious about the things of God. I was very impressed with their Global Missions programs for they have a good budget from people who really want to support missions and the fact that they do a really good job of personalizing missions.

- William

Re: - posted by John316, on: 2003/8/3 16:37

Everyone please note before reading this that I am not "anti-church" or "anti-church building." Just wanted to share what's on my heart.

Crsschck, continue to seek the Lord and His heart. Do not worry what "older" more "mature" Christians might tell you -- your church attendance, or whatever, is not what God is after -- He's after you.

On the issue of "church" I was discussing the other day as to why Paul and Peter and the rest of the apostles did not build churches, but rather, met in people's homes. I believe it is because the disciples were exiting Judaism -- realizing that the "God who created all life...does not dwell in buildings made with hands." (Acts) So, to get away from the "traditional" way of thinking that a building labeled "temple" or "church" is a "house of God" they opted to meet in homes. I also know that persecution had much to do with this -- but my point is I think we are missing it when we feel we have to meet in buildings... This has never been God's intent. He wants us to fellowship, yes -- but if that fellowship is taking the place of our fellowship with Him, or at least, not drawing us into deeper fellowship with Him, it is fruitless. Lord, give us ears to hear.

I consider Times Square Church my home church although I am never able to attend since it's in NYC. I get the messages online. I fellowship with LIKE-MINDED Believers as much as possible, but those are often hard to find. As 1 John chapter 1 says, "indeed, our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son."

On the issue of you feeling led to stay at home and pray -- I believe this could possibly be the Lord speaking to your heart. It's amazing, because most believe one must be plugged into a church in order to become grounded. But, I believe that because of the condition of the professing Church today, one must become grounded BEFORE searching for a church so that they can rightly divide what is preached. Granted, Godly fellowship IS indeed important -- we learn from each other -- but how much fellowshiping at church is truly Godly, these days??

For those who have wonderful, Godly churches to attend, praise the Lord! Continue to seek Him with the rest of your congregation! For those that do not, do not come under condemnation. Trust the Lord, He is faithful and able to keep you wherever you are and whatever you do.

Re: - posted by pfox (), on: 2003/8/3 17:19

Paris Reidhead's messages "The Hidden Things of God" are in the same vein as your post, john316 (go to the download section of this site). I would encourage those who question this post to listen to them - and especially, you, crsschck (you will be blessed). Reidhead makes the point very clear that man's way is to have something that can be seen, while God's way has always been and will always be a hidden people. A word of warning, do not listen to these messages if you are not willing to honestly evaluate everything that you have held to be "Christianity."

If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Christ cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

Re: Did you attend church today? - posted by PJ, on: 2003/8/3 17:42

I was not completely fair to my church in my first post. The more I thought about it the more I realized that we do have a handful of people who are serious about the things of God. We have one lady who coordinates an all night prayer meeting once a month. She has a handful of women who attend. I also have some members on my children's ministry team who give and give of their time. They do this because they have an eternal perspective and are serious about the things of God.

I hope my comment about repentance not being preached did not seem as a slam to my pastor. As I said he preaches the uncompromised word of God. However not everyone is from the school of repentance. The only reason I see the imp

General Topics :: Did you attend church today?

importance of this aspect of salvation is because of my reading of Ravenhill and the likes of him. Also Ray Comfort has added to this strong conviction. My church is far from perfect, but overall it is a good solid church with a lot of good solid people.

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2003/8/3 18:13

Thanks for the heads up pfox, will have to listen to that message.
_/_crsschk_/_

Re: - posted by pfox (), on: 2003/8/3 19:04

Quote:
-----I hope my comment about repentance not being preached did to seem as a slam to my pastor. As I said he preaches the uncompromised word of God. However not everyone is from the school of repentance. The only reason I see the importance of this aspect of salvation is because of my reading of Ravenhill and the likes of him. Also Ray Comfort has added to this strong conviction.

May I make a suggestion? Talk to your pastor about what you see. If you do this in love with a heart to truly see yourselves as well as the people in the church reconciled to God, then one of two things will happen. You will either find that you are speaking to his heart-cry (even if the Lord has not yet brought him to the understanding of repentance) and the two of you will be brought into fellowship as you wait on the Lord and are given a word of true healing for His people which He has placed you in a position to serve; or you will find that while your pastor speaks an "uncompromised word of God", there is a reason why his messages are lacking repentance.

As I'm sure will be immediately plain to you, this decision is nothing to be taken lightly, but I assure you there is no better way to discover what sort of man your pastor is and thereby discover what direction your church is truly heading.

Re: Did you attend church today? - posted by Jason, on: 2003/8/3 21:51

I'm curious -- how do you "go to" or "attend" church??? And what on earth is a "worship style"?

Re: - posted by heartsoffire (), on: 2003/8/3 23:00

If WE are the church, then it makes it difficult to "go to church." This isn't an effort to be overly "technical," but is truly something that must be understood. Most people see the church and THE CHURCH (His true body) as being one - they are not. The world looks at our "church going" and laugh or are bewildered because they perceive that it's just a club where members (and possibly non-members) pay dues (tithe).

The TRUE church isn't a building. In fact, church history bears out that the early church didn't meet in any building for the first 300 years. It wasn't till Constantine merged the church and the state and established the Universal church (Catholicism) and mandated that the idol temples be converted to churches that the concept of meeting in a building was even conceived. The early fathers wanted nothing to do with a building because the temple of God was not a building, but a people.

Not to sound judgmental, but hardly anything that happens in the traditional church meeting has any scriptural basis to it at all. When the scripture speaks about assembling, it wasn't referring to sitting in a pew or a chair looking at the back of someone's head listening to someone teach or preach. It was referring to a true body ministry, where everyone participated. (1 Corinthians chapters 12-14 and several other scriptures).

This doesn't negate the need for preaching or teaching, but it does remove the showmanship and drama behind it. It's tough to know them that labor among us...when we rarely have any contact aside from a hand shake at the door.

Quote:
-----Â“But, brothers, we entreat you to know those laboring among you, and taking the lead of you in Lord, and warning you, even esteem them most exceedingly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.Â” (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 LIT)

So, to sum this up. What people do on Sunday is congregate to "hopefully" honor the Lord. However, it is true, to quote (as closely as I can remember) I believe Leonard Ravenhill, "Every Sunday morning, we sing songs of lies." I've attended some good "churches" but for the most part, when challenged by what is Biblical, it isn't happening in the buildings (rented or owned). It's happening in people's homes and businesses (in the streets).

God is going to judge our "churchianity" and bring HIS Church back to where He desired it to be in the first place. If you have a hard time with this, take a step back and look at the fruit of "the church." It has done nothing to preserve or convict a society that is swiftly moving away from God. It has no power and no authority. It's not even being persecuted because it's so much like the world - just more expensive.

Again, this is not to offend. If you attend a place where a body of believers are truly desiring the pure things of God - continue to do so. It makes no difference WHERE that place is. If the ministry that you fellowship with urges you to walk in repentance and true inward holiness, submit to them and challenge them. If you are gathering with some believers and the ministry is preparing you for the "day of the Lord," then continue.

Quote:
-----"O Israel, your prophets have been like foxes among ruins. "You have not gone up into the breaches, nor did you build the wall around the house of Israel to stand in the battle on the day of the LORD." (Ezekiel 13:4-5 NAS95)

Absent of these things, "RUN FOR YOUR LIFE." Better to meet in your living room with one or two other like minded believers than in a congregation of hundreds or thousands playing a game walking out feeling like they've paid their dues to God.

Quote:
-----"So My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will have no place in the council of My people, nor will they be written down in the register of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel, that you may know that I am the Lord GOD. "It is definitely because they have misled My people by saying, 'Peace!' when there is no peace. And when anyone builds a wall, behold, they plaster it over with whitewash; tell those who plaster over with whitewash, that it will fall. A flooding rain will come, and you, O hailstones, will fall; and a violent wind will break out. "Behold, when the wall has fallen, will you not be asked, 'Where is the plaster with which you plastered?' " Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, "I will make a violent wind break out in My wrath. There will also be in My anger a flooding rain and hailstones to consume in wrath. "So I will tear down the wall which you plastered over with whitewash and bring it down to the ground, so that its foundation is laid bare; and when it falls, you will be consumed in its midst. And you will know that I am the LORD." (Ezekiel 13:9-14 NAS95)

Sorry for the long post.

Re: - posted by pfox (), on: 2003/8/3 23:19

Quote:
----- Better to meet in your living room with one or two other like minded believers than in a congregation of hundreds or thousands playing a game walking out feeling like they've paid their dues to God.

"It is better to live in a corner of a roof Than in a house shared with a contentious woman." Proverbs 21:9

General Topics :: Did you attend church today?

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2003/8/4 14:50

Quote:

If WE are the church, then it makes it difficult to "go to church." This isn't an effort to be overly "technical," but is truly something that must be understood. Most people see the church and THE CHURCH (His true body) as being one - they are not

Actually, you are making an effort to be overly technical. You have limited the definition of "Church" to simply mean the body of Christ. That is a very technical, and legalistic definition. You are simply "wrangling about words" which Paul warns us strongly against. Please come to understand that words can have more than one meaning and usage. We as the Church can go to church. That is, by "church" we mean something along the lines of a "assembly of the saints." Some might better use the phrase/word "an assembly", or "a fellowship", or a "synagogue."

Quote:

In fact, church history bears out that the early church didn't meet in any building for the first 300 years.

Study the Scriptures a little closer (and history shows the earliest known church building to be in the 2nd century). Twice in the book of Acts do we see the early church in Jerusalem meeting in a place other than in one another's homes. Yes, they did meet house to house. But they also had a larger, general assembly at Solomon's portico... which is in the temple! (See Acts 5:12, 7:47)

And tell me this... how is meeting in a house any different than meeting in any other building? The fact of the matter is, it doesn't. For both are buildings! The Lord is our dwelling place said Moses, and the apostle said in Acts that it is in God who we move, live, and have our being. So surely, if God is our dwelling place, it does not matter what tent we decide to meet in for times of fellowship?

Quote:

Not to sound judgmental, but hardly anything that happens in the traditional church meeting has any scriptural basis to it at all. When the scripture speaks about assembling, it wasn't referring to sitting in a pew or a chair looking at the back of someone's head listening to someone teach or preach. It was referring to a true body ministry, where everyone participated. (1 Corinthians chapters 12-14 and several other scriptures).

Can we not assemble for many different purposes? Sometimes, can we not assemble for simply a time of prayer, praise, and worship? Can we not assemble as many did unto our Lord on the Mount of Olives to hear a discourse? Perhaps maybe we need to have a corporate fellowship dinner? Perhaps we are getting together in a group for a Bible study. Sometimes, we may assemble, and all may participate, but only a small number will say anything? Or perhaps, sometimes we may assemble, and everybody say something? Or perhaps, we may all assemble, and say nothing? Yet the apparent passiveness of some is really not passiveness at all. A lot of activities we see in the typical church building (or at least what I have seen), are very much Biblically based.

Yes, sometimes many assemble for the wrong reasons, and do not do as they are supposed to in the midst of the assembly. But, that would be quenching the Spirit, and the guilt would not lay on those who are in charge of the meeting, rather, it would lay on those who refused to do something at the prompting of the Spirit.

Quote:

If you attend a place where a body of believers are truly desiring the pure things of God - continue to do so. It makes no difference WHERE that place is. If the ministry that you fellowship with urges you to walk in repentance and true inward holiness, submit to them and challenge them. If you are gathering with some believers and the ministry is preparing you for the "day of the Lord," then continue.

Amen and amen.

Quote:

Absent of these things, "RUN FOR YOUR LIFE." Better to meet in your living room with one or two other like minded believers than in a congregation of hundreds or thousands playing a game walking out feeling like they've paid their dues to God.

In general, true. But, God may call you to stay there and bear testimony.

Re: - posted by Maria (), on: 2003/8/4 15:50

PreachingtoCannibals, not to offend, but I think you missed the intent and the spirit of what heartsoffire, jason, pfox and others were saying. You jumped to the conclusion that heartsoffire was being "overly technical" and saying that anything labeled church is not a church. He/she did not. To make sure everyone got the point in it's entirety, heartsoffire said:

"Again, this is not to offend. If you attend a place where a body of believers are truly desiring the pure things of God - C
ONTINUE TO DO SO. It makes no difference WHERE that place is. If the ministry that you fellowship with urges you to walk in repentance and true inward holiness, submit to them and challenge them. If you are gathering with some believers and the ministry is preparing you for the "day of the Lord," then continue."

(Which I understand, preachingtocannibals that you did quote, so I'm not saying you didn't read it.)

Everyone, I speak to myself as well, needs to be very careful on these forums. It is often easy to miss the heart of what people are trying to say, especially if one is skimming (I'm not accusing you of doing this).

I have noticed many people point the finger at others for legalism and many other things on this forum, when, they themselves are not considering the HEART of these issues. This is true legalism in and of itself -- missing the heart and focusing on detail -- which, I will say, is NOT what heartsoffire did on the post. In such cases, one cannot be "overly technical" as these misconceptions of "the house of God" have been the downfall of many.

Let's humbly, gently (by gently I do not mean to put away the "sword" -- but please use the sword of the Spirit) examine ourselves when we post this stuff. We just might be the epitome of everything we are accusing others of being.

When I say this, I realize that anything that is truly of God can withstand even the highest scrutiny -- so I am not against scrutinizing by any means.

For all others reading this, make sure you read what heartsoffire said in detail so that the point was not missed. I think it was great stuff, and in the Spirit of the Lord.

Re: - posted by Maria (), on: 2003/8/4 15:53

Quote:

"And tell me this... how is meeting in a house any different than meeting in any other building? The fact of the matter is, it doesn't. For both are buildings! The Lord is our dwelling place said Moses, and the apostle said in Acts that it is in God who we move, live, and have our being. So surely, if God is our dwelling place, it does not matter what tent we decide to meet in for times of fellowship?"

I think that was heartsoffire's whole point, actually.

Re: - posted by heartsoffire (), on: 2003/8/4 19:17

Quote:
-----Actually, you are making an effort to be overly technical. You have limited the definition of "Church" to simply mean the body of Christ. That is a very technical, and legalistic definition. You are simply "wrangling about words" which Paul warns us strongly against. Please come to understand that words can have more than one meaning and usage. We as the Church can go to church. That is, by "church" we mean something along the lines of a "assembly of the saints." Some might better use the phrase/word "an assembly", or "a fellowship", or a "synagogue."

No doubt. You missed the point.

Quote:
-----Study the Scriptures a little closer (and history shows the earliest known church building to be in the 2nd century). Twice in the book of Acts do we see the early church in Jerusalem meeting in a place other than in one another's homes. Yes, they did meet house to house. But they also had a larger, general assembly at Solomon's portico... which is in the temple! (See Acts 5:12, 7:47)

Widespread, ACCEPTED use of a building was not until 300AD. There were buildings, but these were oftentimes torn down by the believers to keep people from associating a building to the HOUSE OF GOD.

Quote:
-----And tell me this... how is meeting in a house any different than meeting in any other building? The fact of the matter is, it doesn't. For both are buildings! The Lord is our dwelling place said Moses, and the apostle said in Acts that it is in God who we move, live, and have our being. So surely, if God is our dwelling place, it does not matter what tent we decide to meet in for times of fellowship?

One is a dedicated place that is oftentimes associated with "God's presence." The other is a place where people meet to fellowship with God. Reality is, most people associate the building to where God is - this is incorrect.

The apostle Paul indicated that he refused to be supported by the church at Corinth because he didn't want the Gospel to be tainted. I draw this analogy because while it wasn't wrong for him to receive from them, he chose not to.

While it is not wrong to have a church building, many are not meeting in them because they want people to understand that it has nothing to do with the building. God is with them because "we are His temple."

Quote:
-----Can we not assemble for many different purposes? Sometimes, can we not assemble for simply a time of prayer, praise, and worship? Can we not assemble as many did unto our Lord on the Mount of Olives to hear a discourse? Perhaps maybe we need to have a corporate fellowship dinner? Perhaps we are getting together in a group for a Bible study. Sometimes, we may assemble, and all may participate, but only a small number will say anything? Or perhaps, sometimes we may assemble, and everybody say something? Or perhaps, we may all assemble, and say nothing? Yet the apparent passiveness of some is really not passiveness at all. A lot of activities we see in the typical church building (or at least what I have seen), are very much Biblically based.

No doubt, but again you missed the point.

Quote:
-----In general, true. But, God may call you to stay there and bear testimony.

Not for me to judge what God has spoken to anyone. However, I know that many have stayed, not because of the voice of the Lord, but because it is comfortable. Most of us have gotten so used to "doing for God" in church things that the concept of "being for God" is difficult.

DO NOT MISUNDERSTAND, NO ONE CAN SURVIVE ON THEIR OWN. This post has nothing to do with fellowshiping with believers of like mind - but is a desire to challenge our paradigm. If it doesn't fit you or your situation, that is between you and God. I encourage you to listen to Jim Cymbala's message "My House Shall Be Called A House of Prayer." If your church fits this, then I praise God that He has a clear, definite voice in your community.

Re: - posted by heartsoffire (), on: 2003/8/4 19:40

As of this particular post, this topic has had 329 views. This means that, aside from the replies, over 300 people have perused through this thread. One of the purposes of THIS particular site is to begin to challenge our way of thinking away from the cultural/traditional thought and move us toward Biblical thinking. At times, there will be posts that cut across traditional thinking to the point where it seems like something is missing or not complete - much like the scriptures. One of the most difficult things about any written work, especially forums, is that a small post can be taken totally out of context because there is a ton of "foundation" behind to back it up.

With all of that, like Maria stated in her posts, desiring to "understand the spirit and purpose" of the posts is critical. So back to my 300+ views - being "technical" in THIS topic was an effort to begin to separate the way the scripture defines the church (ekklesia) and the way our culture defines church. This so that when readers, from all over the world, read the post they will understand that there is a difference and hopefully search the scriptures to find out what that difference is/was.

The western church is full of idolatry, adultery, hatred, envy, strife, division, jealousy, and just plain flesh. (this is not to say that EVERYONE in the church is like this and that all churches are like this). The Biblical church was COMMANDED to deal with all kinds of leaven (flesh/sin) and not to tolerate it.

Quote:
-----"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these." (2 Timothy 3:1-5 NAS95)

Quote:
-----"It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst. For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." (1 Corinthians 5:1-8 NAS95)

This site is called REVIVALWENEED.COM. Do we realize that the real source of revival is not how great our services are or how talented our musicians are or even how articulate and powerful our preacher is? The REAL source of revival is a sovereign act of God working through a separated people that offer nothing but their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

Quote:
-----"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, your spiritual service of worship." (Romans 12:1 NAS95)

It is my opinion that the only way that we will ever see a move of God is for us to continue to do as Paul and seek Christ and not defend a fruitless fig tree that is cursed at the roots because the "salt has lost its saltiness and is now worthless." However, God is raising up a remnant that finds satisfaction in HIM alone and passionately desires to walk in truth.

Consider yourself abundantly blessed if you find people, in your area, that adhere to and walk in even HALF of what is posted on this site in regards to the sermons from men as Paris Reidhead, Leonard Ravenhill, Watchman Nee, Tozer, Sanders, Wilkerson, Conlon, and others. Because there are so many that are utterly alone, even in their "churches."

Over the years, I've fellowshiped with ministries from AOG, Church of God, non-denominational, Evangelical Free, Pentecostal Free, 10th Presbyterian, American Baptist, and others. Yet, when the concept of totally reviewing what it was that we were doing and determining its scriptural basis, few were receptive. Most, not all, of the ministry these days are administrators and corporate executives that put together their sermon(s) for the week to keep the people coming and paying tithe. This may sound cynical, but it's true - sadly.

General Topics :: Did you attend church today?

If you have a pastor that devotes himself to the word of God and prayer and allows the church to deal with the administration and he delivers a Word from Heaven - BE BLESSED AND STAY WHERE YOU ARE! This Word will change you and affect every fiber of your soul and spirit. It will be uncomfortable, yet joyous and liberating!

It is my hope that we all have our minds renewed and begin to understand the mind of the SPIRIT. He is not interested in our song services, our preaching, our tithing, or our buildings - He desires our heart.

I can't think of one contemporary revivalist (within the last 500 years) that wasn't removed from their home church pulpit and forbidden to preach. Many of the Wesley revival meetings occurred in bars and other non-traditional meeting places. The thing that drew people to the meetings was the power of God. This will hold true in this last day Church. It can not and will NOT happen in church buildings.

Lastly, the statement that the early church met in the temple is correct. NOTE: The early apostles that ministered to the Jews struggled with tradition and became comfortable in using the same structure that God used before. This is well documented in the book of Acts and other historical writings. Let's realize that God DESTROYED this place and dispersed the believers away from their comfortable place.

God is doing this same thing in these last days.

End of ramblings...whew!

Re: ic - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2003/8/4 22:02

Quote:
-----The western church is full of idolatry, adultery, hatred, envy, strife, division, jealousy, and just plain flesh. (this is not to say that EVERYONE in the church is like this and that all churches are like this). The Biblical church was COMMANDED to deal with all kinds of leaven (flesh/sin) and not to tolerate it.

I totally agree with this that there is no church discipline in place barely in any churches in the western world. I hear from the pulpit of TSC (Times Square Church) "We are not MAD at you" but we desire for you to go to heaven, to live a holy life, etc.. they come across harsh and also upset people but it is for the sake of truth and discipline to keep the people in line with God.

Quote:
-----This site is called REVIVALWENEED.COM. Do we realize that the real source of revival is not how great our services are or how talented our musicians are or even how articulate and powerful our preacher is? The REAL source of revival is a sovereign act of God working through a separated people that offer nothing but their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

YES, we need to set ourselves apart to God each person individually to seek after a reviving of the heart. God needs people he can use and work through in these last days.

Quote:
-----It is my opinion that the only way that we will ever see a move of God is for us to continue to do as Paul and seek Christ and not defend a fruitless fig tree that is cursed at the roots because the "salt has lost its saltiness and is now worthless." However, God is raising up a remnant that finds satisfaction in HIM alone and passionately desires to walk in truth.

I would have to agree it is your 'opinion'! I totally am not giving up on denominations, churches, etc.. Especially my Church and denomination: Presbyterians Church in Canada. I believe that God can and is going to work to revive his people to be eternally minded and to set them apart to himself. God will still revive some "denominational" churches, and refine believers.

Quote:
-----DO NOT MISUNDERSTAND, NO ONE CAN SURVIVE ON THEIR OWN. This post has nothing to do with fellowshiping with believers of like mind - but is a desire to challenge our paradigm. If it doesn't fit you or your situation, that is between you and God.

General Topics :: Did you attend church today?

But it is essential to meet with believers and fellowship, or else you are separating yourself from necessary fellowship that is demanded in the bible. But I do have a few questions about the word "Church" it seems to pop up in the NEW Testament quite a bit.

It's interesting to NOTE that we are the Temple of the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 2:19-22
v22 - In Whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

It is also interesting to NOTE that in heaven there will be no TEMPLE or churches, Revelation 21:22
v22 - And I saw no Temple therein: for the LORD God Almighty and the Lamb are the Temple of it.

Here is one questionable for now:

"I Jesus have sent Mine angel to testify unto you these things in the **churches**. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and morning Star." - Revelation 22:16

The word is 'churches' isn't there just one Spiritual Church? hmmm

Re: - posted by heartsoffire (), on: 2003/8/4 22:46

Quote:
-----I would have to agree it is your 'opinion'! I totally am not giving up on denominations, churches, etc.. Especially my Church and denomination: Presbyterians Church in Canada. I believe that God can and is going to work to revive his people to be eternity minded and to set them apart to himself. God will still revive some "denominational" churches, and refine believers.

I would love to agree with you here, but God never reforms, he recreates. He destroys the old and creates the new out of a small shoot or remnant (see Ezekiel 17). All of the "reformers" found out that the system cannot be reformed and they were promptly thrown out on their ear. This may come across as hard, but experience has taught me that this is true. I've earnestly tried and God has shown me very clearly that it is not His way.

Quote:
-----But it is essential to meet with believers and fellowship, or else you are separating yourself from necessary fellowship that is demanded in the bible. But I do have a few questions about the word "Church" it seems to pop up in the NEW Testament quite a bit.

Never said this, in fact I EXPLICITLY said that WE MUST have fellowship. On the other hand, fellowship with God is demanded over and above fellowship with one another. I have seen that personal fellowship can oftentimes replace our fellowship with God. This is not good. Keep in mind that the apostle Paul, according to his testimony, didn't go up to Jerusalem but went to Arabia. I wonder how much fellowship he had out there. How much fellowship did Abraham, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and others have? How 'bout John, the beloved, in exile on the isle of Patmos? True fellowship springs from a living relationship and fellowship with the Father.

To repeat, I am NOT advocating separation. In the above cases, these men were unwillingly separated because of the rebelliousness around them.

Quote:
-----"Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." (Matthew 10:34 NAS95)

I've never purposely separated myself from "the brethren." But they separated from me. This will happen to every believer because God will "prove" His people and they WILL stand alone.

There is much more on this topic, but God will give wisdom and understanding as we search the scriptures. I'm really not interested in "arguing" with anyone on this topic. If you disagree, so be it.

Quote:

-----I Jesus have sent Mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and morning Star." - Revelation 22:16

The word is 'churches' isn't there just one Spiritual Church? hmmm

The word CHURCH is from the Greek word ekklesia. It means "a gathering" into some public place. Others have translated it "called out ones." The first definition is probably most accurate. This post started with a question about "going to church." It has evolved into a semantic, yet important, discussion about what that means. MY primary focus is to take the focus off the PLACE of worship and to focus on the worshippers themselves. Unfortunately, in the western world, the PLACE of worship is more important. People, in general, look to the building as a place where they meet God. As PREACHINGTOCANIBALS has already mentioned, and I agree, technically there is no difference between a church building and a home - it is a place where people gather. MY POINT, however, is that the emphasis in our culture is on the PLACE (I'm intentionally being repetitive here).

I would be hypocritical if I felt that ANYONE that went to a building called a church is wrong because I actively support ministries that have buildings. But to repeat, a third time, their emphasis isn't on the building, it is on the gathering of those inside the building.

So, to answer the question about **churches**, it is entirely possible to have multiple gatherings, but it is ONE BODY.

In Revelation, John identifies seven church types in seven historical locations. These are CHURCHES. Not everyone in those CHURCHES were part of THE BODY (one).

I'm sure that I've raised more questions than answers, but the point of all of this is that God **MAY** use a system built with man's hands only to lead people to Himself. Eventually, they will find true life and will ultimately be cut away. However, He will NEVER be associated with a building. He WILL associate Himself with a group of believers that are gathered together...

Quote:

-----"Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name. "They will be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him." (Malachi 3:16-17 NAS95)

-----"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." (Matthew 18:20 NAS95)

Notice that HE said IN HIS NAME. This denotes that these people have come together submitted and under the authority of His headship - they have made Him Lord.

Re: - posted by Maria (), on: 2003/8/4 22:57

Quote:

"I would have to agree it is your 'opinion'! I totally am not giving up on denominations, churches, etc.. Especially my Church and denomination: Presbyterians Church in Canada. I believe that God can and is going to work to revive his people to be eternity minded and to set them apart to himself. God will still revive some "denominational" churches, and refine believers."

Do you realize that when you say this you are once again bringing the subject back to buildings and denominations (man-made systems) rather than the heart of the issue? Think hard about this.

God will NEVER give up on PEOPLE. The buildings have NOTHING to do with anything! It is the people in the buildings WHO God is after. So to say that "I totally am not giving up on denominations, churches, etc.." is completely opposite of saying, "I believe that God can and is going to work to revive his people to be eternity minded and to set them apart to himself."

Everyone has already agreed that God will do this with His people. Why must we once again associate this to the BUILDINGS and DENOMINATIONS?

Defend the faith, not the buildings and labels.

Please think about this.

Re: - posted by Jason, on: 2003/8/4 23:04

I understand the opinion (and the desire) that God will "revive" the dead denominations and still work through them. At the same time, I cannot find one time in history that God has done this.

Secondly, I think it should be mandatory for all readers of this thread to listen to Reidhead's "The Hidden Things of God" series. That series should answer many of the issues in this thread.

Similarly to what heartsoffire said, Reidhead talks about how the "woman" the church within whom is the "manchild" (that is, the Body of Christ) is desperate to get rid of this holy burden and will cast it out whenever she is given the opportunity. Then she is free to prostitute herself as she pleases and nothing holds her back from being "Babylon the Great: the mother of harlots."

Re: - posted by Koinonia2 (), on: 2003/8/10 11:08

To answer the original question (and yes, some have already touched on this issue):

We do **not** go to church. It is true: We *are* the church.

We attend meetings of the church.

We go to meeting halls (assembly halls, worship halls, whatever you want to call them) of the church.

It is true to say that there are no such things as "churches" (in the sense of "the church on the corner"...don't get me wrong. "churches" are local assemblies, but they are not physical buildings) nor "going to church."

Re: Did you attend church today? - posted by PJ, on: 2003/8/10 11:28

In light of everyone's "Christianity Correct" replies, in the future I will ask the question something like this...

Did you the "Church" attend any kind of worship hall or formal meeting to fellowship and worship with other members of the "Church".

Every one happy now?

Just having fun,
PJ

Re: - posted by Koinonia2 (), on: 2003/8/10 13:59

PJ, I understand where you're coming from, but this is not something to take - or talk about - lightly.

The notion of "going to church" is incorrect and is the cause of a great lack of understanding among Christians today.

Because so many Christians are engaged in "going to church," very, very few realize that they actually **are** the church.

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2003/8/10 14:05

Thanks PJ, we needed that, I think we can become a bunch of 'stogey ol' boogers' sometimes.
And for the record I again did not attend a place that was not a home, where there are a bunch of seats and people who are called "Christians" come together to sing and listen to a "preacher"...
Because I was and am exhausted....
And I also am just trying to lighten things up a bit.

Edit:

I agree that this is not something to be taken lightly since there are many problems in the 'church' (The buildings we congregate in) as well as the body. I think we are just trying to lighten up the meaning in which the intent of the words were conveyed in the original post.

_/crsschk\

Re: - posted by heartsoffire (), on: 2003/8/10 14:15

Not that this really matters, but for the record, my original post was in response to someone's question regarding WHAT the church was (responding to Jason's question).

Unfortunately, that particular post was removed/deleted by the time I had clicked on submit and the context of everything looked rather disjointed. Nevertheless, we move on...

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2003/8/10 18:21

Heartsoffire:

For what it's worth in regards to:

Quote:

Unfortunately, that particular post was removed/deleted by the time I had clicked on submit and the context of everything looked rather disjointed.

You might want to check out

Loggin Off

There is some info on this in there if you are interested,(on copying and saving). You may already know about this, just s

haring
_/crsschk\

Re: - posted by heartsoffire (), on: 2003/8/10 22:05

I'm not sure what you mean. I was referring to someone else's post that was deleted. My reply was to that post, but by the time I finished (tend to be long winded), this person's post was deleted.

So, when the thread took a turn, it looked like it was attempting to be overly technical without any context (because the original question was deleted).

Oh well. Again...movin' on.

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2003/8/10 23:39

I thought you might have been referring to the time length while you are typing out a reply. I think if you go past 20-30 minutes and go to submit what you wrote, you can lose everything if you haven't copied or saved it. The site sees you as being inactive, logs you out and doesn't save your reply.

I was mistaken.

Re: - posted by heartsoffire (), on: 2003/8/11 6:24

No problem. I generally handle long posts either through Notepad or periodically do a select all and then copy so that if something happens, I still have my text. I've been burned on other sites before (i.e. webmail typically has a timer on it).

Thanks for sharing, though. Have a good day! :-)