



## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

### 1. Biblical reasons for church attendance

1. **It's biblical.** Jesus established the local church and all the Apostles did their ministry through it. – Mt 16:18
2. **The church is its members.** To be “a church” in the New Testament is to be one of its members (read through Acts). – 1 Cor 12:12
3. **It's a pre-requisite for the Lord's Supper.** The Lord's Supper is a meal for the gathered church, that is, for members - 1 Cor. 11:20, 33
4. **It's how to serve other Christians.** Membership helps you to know which Christians on planet Earth you are specifically responsible to love, serve, warn, and encourage. It enables you to fulfill your biblical responsibilities to Christ's body - Eph. 4:11-16; 25-32
5. **It's how to follow Christian leaders.** Membership helps you to know which Christian leaders on planet Earth you are called to obey and follow. Again, it allows you to fulfill your biblical responsibility to them - Heb. 13:7; 17
6. **It helps Christian leaders lead.** Membership lets Christian leaders know which Christians on planet Earth they will “give an account” for - Acts 20:28; 1 Pt 5:2
7. **It enables church discipline.** It gives you the biblically prescribed place to participate in the work of church discipline responsibly, wisely, and lovingly - 1 Cor. 5
8. **It gives structure to the Christian life.** It places an individual Christian's claim to “obey” and “follow” Jesus into a real-life setting

where authority is actually exercised over us - Jhn 14:15; 1 Jhn 2:19; 4:20-21

9. **Safety for the Sheep in the Sheepfold.** Sheep have been known to walk right off a cliff. Sheep are virtually defenceless. Sheep cannot defend themselves. They are not very fast. But if there is a faithful shepherd, the sheep know his name. - Jhn 10:11-18

Peter reiterates the instructions to the pastors (under shepherds) - I Pt 5:2-4

## 2. How to choose a church to commit to

1. Know that each church has a particular function in the city or town
2. Check and see if that function resonates with you or not
3. Check to see if you have peace about committing there
4. Go to as many churches as possible to find the one you would be comfortable in and then commit and start growing
5. Do not leave the church when things get tough is where you must grow