

New Believers Lesson- The New family and your Church Attendance

It's vital that as a New Christian you practice brotherly kindness and love towards others, especially to those that may not understand your new life in Christ.

Patience must be practiced to avoid many misunderstanding with those that live outside the Body of Christ.

As we grow in Christ we are more than able to make important decisions but you now know that you are different and different decisions need to be made especially lifestyle decisions.

We are now to forsake our desires, likes and directions to follow Christ and "die to ourselves"

(Acts 17:11, Romans 14:7) It takes time and work to fully understand this concept. So how is it done?

The answer is; **going to Church** plain and simple, because it takes faith to please God first and foremost and acting out of that faith is what and where God wants us to start from. Walking daily takes strength that sometimes we simply don't have, but through our spiritual relationship with Christ we are renewed, revived and restored when our strength is taken by this world. **(Isaiah 40:31)**

Below are some things that we must do to continue in that relationship:

1. We must continue to live among those that pull us down as we did before we were saved!
It's God's desire and command that we live out this life in the presence of those that do not know him so that our lives shine in such a way that it draws them to himself. **(John 12:32)**
2. Your relationship with God should be first in your life. Practice makes perfect, so you must work at building your relationship with God and as well as others.
3. Old habits like smoking and drinking must go people of the world should not be your first means of fellowship, because you can be tempted and pulled down by them. It's vital to find friendships in the body of Christ, early in your walk with God. Church opens the opportunity for these strong relationships to develop in your life.
4. All other things that take up your time should now be second to your relationship with Christ.
 1. Wasting time doing nothing.
 2. Undisciplined patterns of behaviour
 3. Worldly pleasures
 4. Intentional habits that grieve the Holy Spirit you've received
 5. Anger or Unforgiveness stunts our growth, its vital we forgive others and quickly as possible
 6. Former unhealthy relationships must at all cost be broken
 7. Things that involve loving the world more than God can be harmful and must be controlled or avoided

Building that right foundation largely demands on your relationship with a church. It will be where you live grow and meet God in new and exciting ways. It also is vital to build proper relationships with other Christians that will speak into your life, encourage you and support you in difficult times

Let us examine our New Relationships:

1. The Bible says that you are now the temple of the Holy Spirit and God's Spirit lives in us! **1 Cor. 6:19**
It also says we were bought at a price, therefore we are to honor God with our bodies- **1 Cor. 6:20**
We owe God everything and it's important that we keep in correct relationship to him. The finished work on the cross by Christ saved our soul from "HELL" warrants obedience on the premise that we're His and He Died in our place.
2. Your new relationship in Christ needs to be guided by Christ and he uses others to do that. God will use a brother or sister to speak into your life, perhaps seeing something we did not. Often though God sends them to strengthen us and helps us in a terrible time or a difficulty. We must maintain fellowship with others that are also "Saved" and are "In Christ" and share his heart, calling and passion.
3. You need to attend a church to learn to grow up the things of God.
Galatians 3:1-5
4. Living for God as a Christian has its advantages:
 - a. **Galatians 5:16-22**- fruitful spiritual living happens as we walk, grow and obey in Him.
 - b. Blessings are a part of God's promises to you and some promises include:
 1. Help with anxiety- **Psalms 55:22**
 2. To help you financially- **Proverbs 10:22**
 3. To strengthen you- **Psalms 28:7**
 4. To protect you with angels- **Exodus 23:20**
 5. He teaches us and wants us to keep moving forward- **Heb- 5:11-14**
 6. He helps us in our doubts and troubles- **Mark 11:22-25**
 7. He promises that he will help us continue to change and become like him- **2 Cor. 5:17**
 8. God promises heaven to the follower and the believer, but he also promises help in our suffering peace in our storms, his everlasting love, and He has promises about His eternal ability to take care of us. There are many promises throughout the Bible and we must hold on to them for they are our foundation in this life and our direction to the next.

What does the Bible say about Church?

The Bible makes many references regarding our attendance to a place of worship

Lets us focus on what the Word says about church and our attendance.

1. **Psalm 133:1**- says - it is good when we live together in unity- understanding there is a body
2. **Romans 12:4-5**- says we are all members of one body but all do not do the same function each belongs to the others
3. **1 Corinthians 12:25-27**- says there should be no division, all are equal if one suffer we all do.
We are all one part, one body in Christ.

4. **Galatians 3:28**- there are more than one culture, nationality or race, in the body of Christ-
We are all one in Christ
5. **Ephesians 4:1-6**- we must live a life worthy of our calling to Christ and His Church. He says there is
One body, baptism, one God and Father of all.
6. **Acts 2:1**- states that on the day of Pentecost they were all together in one place- unity existed

So you may ask what Church should I attend and which one is right for me?

Here are some rules for understanding which Church to attend:

1. Does that church feed me spiritually and do I come away feeling I have been taught and received instruction in His Word?
2. Is this Church helping me to fulfill the Great Commission by teaching and training me to "Go into all the World" according to **Mat 28**?
3. Does the Church I attend publically confess their faith in the one and only Son of God The Lord Jesus Christ?

Note this:

- a. You should gather at least once a week in keeping with the pattern taught in the book of Acts
- b. They should be studying God's weekly and should receive encouragement in it each time you go to church
- c. We need to go to a Church that openly worships and preaches Jesus.
- d. They need to teach you to confess the name of Christ, and model it by holding Water Baptisms and the Lord's Supper proclaiming Christ as Head of the church.
- e. That body needs to pray and teach you to pray and pray over you to see God move

Real faith is often tested and tried and under attack. But going to Church helps us stand together as Jesus taught us to do, so we can unite and be a force against the kingdom of darkness.

1 Cor. 10:3-5

We must learn that there is an enemy that prowls around us to take us down, **1 Peter 5:8** but to overcome God gave us the each other to stand together to overcome every attack.

Trust him he has you in His hands. **Proverbs 3:3-5**

Questions:

1. In the Book of Acts what is the promise given to the Philippian Jailer if he would believe in the Lord?
Acts 16:29-34
2. What are the most practical ways to love those outside the church? - **1 Timothy 4:9-14**
3. By watching our lives what do we do for others around us? - **1 Timothy 4:15-16**
4. Godliness with contentment is what in the eyes of God? - **1 Timothy 6:1-10**
5. What are the characteristics of a good church? - **1 Thess. - 5:12-22**
6. What is the blessed hope of the church as the end of all things approaches? - **1 Thess. 4:13-18**
7. What are we as the church of Jesus Christ supposed to die too? - **Colossians 2:6-10 20-23**
8. What are we to set our hearts upon - **Colossians 3:1-11**?

