

Souls for Christ Ministries Presents: New Believer's Lessons

Lesson #11 Church Attendance

In this lesson you will learn:

- What the Bible says about the body of Christ
- Suggestions for church attendance

It is vital as a new Christian we practice brotherly kindness and love towards others, especially to those who may not understand our faith in Christ.

Patience must be practiced to avoid misunderstandings with those who don't serve God.

As we grow in Christ we need to make important decisions especially about our lifestyle.

The Bible commands us to forsake our own desires, to follow Christ and "die to ourselves". This means learning to live in obedience to God's will.

It takes time and work to fully understand this concept. Here are some verses that begin aiding us in answering these questions.

Acts 17:11 says: *"Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."*

Romans 14:7 says: *"For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone."*

As we grow one of our priorities should be our Church attendance. It is important because it takes faith to please God first and foremost. His Word promises to give us daily strength to walk with him, and its through our spiritual relationship with Christ we are renewed to live out our faith in the world.

Isaiah 41:10 says: *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

Walking strong takes work. Here are some tips:

- God's word commands us to live out our faith in the world but making sure we are not entangled in it. It is 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 draws others to Christ. **John 12:32** says: *"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."*
- Your relationship with God should take priority in your life. Practice makes perfect, so you must work at building your relationship with God. **Church attendance is the key.**
- It is 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.

- We need to prioritize our time so we are developing our relationship with Christ. Each day we need to walk and talk to Jesus as we develop spiritual fruit in our lives. This is done by setting aside time to totally focus on God in a worship setting where we meet with others likeminded. **2 Peter 1:5-6** says: *“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness...”*

Note! Here are somethings to avoid:

1. Wasting time doing nothing tends to increase laziness
2. Undisciplined patterns of behaviour cause us to go backward not forward
3. Worldly pleasures force us to make unspiritual decisions that can damage our growth
4. Intentional habitual sins that grieve the Holy Spirit are dangerous. Recognize and avoid them
5. Anger or unforgiveness stunts our growth. It is vital we forgive others quickly as possible
6. Unhealthy relationships must be broken. Anything or anyone that causes you to stumble is a setback in your walk with Jesus.
7. Things that involve loving the world more than God can be harmful and must be controlled or avoided

Building a good foundation depends largely on your relationship with a church. This is where you grow and meet God in new and exciting ways. It is important to build good relationships with those who encourage you and support you in difficult times.

Let us examine our new relationship in Christ as a believer.

- ✚ The Bible says that you are the temple of the Holy Spirit and God's Spirit lives in you. **1 Corinthians 6:19** says: *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?”*

We are bought at a price; therefore, we are to honor God with our bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20 says: *“You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore honour God with your body.”*

We owe God everything and it's important to maintain a correct relationship with him. Christ's finished work on the cross redeemed our soul from hell and warrants obedience on the premise that he died in our place so we wouldn't have to die for our own sin.

- ✚ God wants to guide you as you grow in Christ. He will often use others to speak into our lives, to strengthen us and help us in difficult times.

Read: **James 1:2-4**

- ✚ You need to attend a church to learn to grow up in the things of God.

Read: **Galatians 3:1-5**

- ✦ Christian living has many advantages.
 - a. Spiritual fruit develops as we walk, grow and obey God. Read: **Galatians 5:16-23**
 - b. God promises hold many blessings for us, such as:
 1. Help with anxiety. Read: **Psalms 55:22**
 2. Financial help. Read: **Proverbs 10:22**
 3. Strength. Read: **Psalms 28:7**
 4. To protect you with angels. Read: **Exodus 23:20**
 5. He helps us move forward in our spiritual growth. Read: **Hebrews 5:11-14**
 6. He assures our faith in the middle of doubts and troubles. Read: **Mark 11:22-25**
 7. He promises to help us change and become like him, which is our sanctification
Read: **2 Corinthians 5:17**
 8. He promises heaven to the believer. Read: **1 Corinthians 2:9**
 9. He also promises help in our suffering. Read: **Matthew 5:4**
 10. Peace in the storms of life. Read: **Isaiah 26:3**

What does the Bible say about unity and the body of Christ?

- **Psalms 133:1** says: *“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!”*
- **Romans 12:4-5** says: *“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”*
- **1 Corinthians 12:25-27** says: *“so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.”*
- **1 Corinthians 12:13** says: *“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”*
- **Ephesians 4:4-6** says: *“There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”*
- **Acts 2:1** says: *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.”*

What Church should I attend? Which one is right for me?

1. Does the church feed me spiritually and do I come away feeling I have been taught and received instruction in the Word of God?
2. Is the Church helping me to fulfill the great commission by teaching and training me to "go into all the world" according to **Matthew 28**?
3. Does the Church I attend publically confess their faith in the one and only Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ?

Suggestions for church attendance

- ✓ You should gather at least once a week in keeping with the pattern taught in the book of **Acts 1:8**
- ✓ The Word of God should be studied weekly so you grow and receive encouragement from it each time you attend church
- ✓ Go to a church that openly preaches the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, Son of God.
- ✓ A church should help you grow in the word of God, encourage water baptism, participate in the Lord's supper and teach you to be a witness for Christ
- ✓ Church leadership should teach you to pray, grow in your gifts and find proper relationships that strengthen you for years to come.

Going to Church helps us stand together so we can unite against the kingdom of darkness.

Read: **1 Corinthians 10:3-5**.

Our enemy prowls around us to take us down. Read: **I Peter 5:8**

Trust in God that he has you in his hands. Read: **Proverbs 3:3-5**

Questions for you about this lesson **Please look up the following verses in your Bible**

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