

Why You Shouldn't Come to Church  
Hebrews 10:19-25, Psalm 122:1-9  
July 23, 2017

***And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*** (Hebrews 10:24-25)

1. You should not come to church because you have a personal relationship with \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 150:1 ***Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.***

Psalm 122:1 ***I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”***

Hebrews 10:22 ***Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.***

Psalm 133:1, ***1 How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! ... 3b For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.***

2. You should not come to church because we live by \_\_\_\_\_, not law.

Luke 14:5 ***Then he asked them, “If one of you has a child<sup>[a]</sup> or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?”***

Mark 2:27 ***Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”***

Luke 4:16 ***He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. ...***

Matthew 22:37-40 ***Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”***

3. You should not come to church because the place is full of \_\_\_\_\_.

James 5:16 ***Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.***

4. You should not come to church because church makes you feel \_\_\_\_\_.  
John 16:8 ***And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:***

II Corinthians 7:10 ***Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.***

5. You should not come to church because you're \_\_\_\_\_ at someone.

Colossians 3:13 ***Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.***

Matthew 6:14-15 ***For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.***

6. You should not come to church because the people are hard to \_\_\_\_\_.  
John 15:12 ***"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."***

7. You should not come to church because you don't really \_\_\_\_\_ that much out of it.

Hebrews 10:24-25 ***And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.***

8. You should not come to church because you don't \_\_\_\_\_ church.  
I Corinthians 12:12-27 ***12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ... 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ... 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.***

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***And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*** (Hebrews 10:24-25)

- What are you doing here?
- Good day for the beach. It will storm this afternoon.
- Stores are open, movies are showing.
- You could be catching up on some work from your job.
- And how's your lawn? Your yard? Your house.
- Besides, isn't this your only day to sleep in?
- What are you doing in church?
- Today we're going to talk about why you shouldn't come to church.

1. You should ~~not~~ come to church because you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. **and you can worship Him as well on the golf course or at the beach or at home as in a sanctuary.**

Psalm 150:1 ***Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.***

Psalm 122:1 ***I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."***

Hebrews 10:22 ***Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.***

- Intimacy with God is important. But it's communal, too!
- "The joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known."

Psalm 133:1, *1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! ... 3b For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.*

2. You should ~~not~~ come to church because we live by grace, not law.

Luke 14:5 *Then he asked them, "If one of you has a child or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?"*

- Imagine telling your child, "I'll get you out tomorrow."
- Sometimes there are good reasons to break the Sabbath.
- Sometimes we have emergencies.
- Sometimes we *have* to work.
- Some people listen to the recordings

Mark 2:27 *Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."*

Luke 4:16 *He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. ...*

- Eluthera?

Matthew 22:37-40 *Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

3. You should ~~not~~ come to church because the place is full of sinners. and hypocrites. The rest of us are as big a sinner as you are.

James 5:16 ***Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.***

- We have erred and strayed from you ways ...
- “These are my kind of people.”
- The church is full of sinners. You and I fit right in!
- Gospel.

4. You should ~~not~~ come to church because church makes you feel guilty.

John 16:8 ***And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:***

II Corinthians 7:10 ***Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.***

- Conviction versus condemnation.

5. You should ~~not~~ come to church because you're mad at someone.

Colossians 3:13 ***Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.***

- When we hold grudges, we keep ourselves captive.
- We torture ourselves.
- Come and forgive!

Matthew 6:14-15 ***For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.***

6. You should ~~not~~ come to church because the people are hard to love.

John 15:12 ***“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”***

- Sometimes my wife is hard to love ...

7. ~~You should not come to church because you don't really get that much out of it. (Just scratch that one out completely!)~~

Hebrews 10:24-25 ***And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.***

- Anyone need help or encouragement in loving others? In doing good? We all do.
- We all need cheerleaders. Rob Snider “You can do it!”
- Note that we don't come to *be* spurred on or encouraged.
- We come to spur on others, encourage others.
- “Those Christians who do not have a ministry have missed God's purpose for their lives” – Kenneth Chafin commenting on II Corinthians 4:1

8. You should ~~not~~ come to church because you don't need church.

I Corinthians 12:12-27 ***12Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.***

***15Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that***

**reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.**

**21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.**

- What are you doing here?
- You’re celebrating your personal relationship with Jesus Christ *and* His people.
- You’re living by grace! Expressing gratitude.
- You’re following the custom of Jesus.
- You’re loving sinners, just like Jesus does.
- You are growing in forgiveness, as God forgave you.
- You are spurring others on toward love and good deeds.
- You are encouraging others.

- You are where you are needed. You are where you belong – in the Body of Christ.
- Why shouldn't you come to church? I can't think of a good reason!