

Why People Attend Church

Why do people attend church? It's a pretty straightforward question, but the answers maybe quite complex.

In a Recent Survey

In a recent survey of Christian Church attendees the following answers were given.

People attend church because of
culture and tradition,
because of the music,
because of a sense of community,
because it's the right thing to do,
because of the children's program,
because of the hospitality and fellowship of other believers,
because of the feeling of warmth and well-being.

Those who took the survey were then asked to list their selections as the first, second and third most important reason to go to Church.

The Breakdown

We will take a more detailed look at these, so that we can understand what people believe about Church Attendance. And why they chose these compelling reasons to attend Church.

1. Culture and tradition.

Many said that it was the way they were raised. They followed the culture and traditions of their parents and grandparents. The Bible tells us that we are to pass our faith and heritage to the next generation.

Psalm 78:1-8

“Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

“Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

“For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God...” (emphasis mine)

God commanded His people to pass their faith to the next generation. Going to Church is important because of the culture and traditions handed down from your family's heritage.

2. Because of the music.

Music plays a big part of the worship service. We sing three or four songs as a congregation, then a soloist sings two or three songs as “special music.”

Both congregational and special music are inspiring and uplifting. They get our hearts right, before the preaching starts. So many Christians look forward to a great song service.

3. Because of a sense of community.

Everyone needs to be a part of something bigger than themselves. Life is more than just you and yours. To reach out and help your fellow man should be a Christians heartfelt desire.

No one can carry the needs of the community upon their own shoulders. God established the Church so that we could do things for our community as a group, that we could never do as a single individual.

Being part of the work of the community is not only helpful but it's healthy. Many psychiatrists and therapists have concluded that helping others is important in dealing with depression.

No matter why, being part of something bigger than you, is important to good mental health.

4. Because it's the right thing to do,

Going to Church has always been, and continues to be the right thing to do.

The Bible commands us not to forsake Church.

Hebrews 10:25

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

We are not to forsake Church.

At Church you will have the opportunity to worship God. You will probably get some of life's big questions answered. The preaching of the Bible will help set direction for your life. Being in Church is a sign that you want to serve God and become one of Jesus' disciples.

5. Because of the children's program.

I often tell people, "Even if you don't want Church in your life. Even if you don't care about worshiping God. You should still go to Church for your children's sake."

Perhaps you don't care if there is a heaven or a hell. You plan on partying until then. But the Bible declares, we will ALL be at the Judgement. And unless you have been saved from sin by the death of Jesus Christ, you will be cast into hell.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

"And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

Hebrews 9:27-28

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

Revelation 20:11-15

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.z’

Perhaps you don't care if there is a heaven or hell. And you will risk your never dying soul to ignore it. But what about your children? Do you want to stand at the Great White Throne Judgement and watch your children being cast into hell because you neglected to teach them about God?

Even if you don't care about yourself, take your children to Church and let them learn about God's love and salvation.

6. Because of the hospitality and fellowship of other believers.

One of the greatest things about Church is the family I gained when I became a part of the Church.

I have the dearest friends who are like brothers and sisters to me. We are part of the family of God. When we hurt, everyone hurts with us. And, when we have joy, everyone rejoices with us. We become Friends!

This world is getting worse and worse. We need each other. We need to encourage each other. We all need somebody to lean on. We call them friends.

**Friends are friends forever,
If the Lord's the Lord of them
And a friend will not say never
'Cause the welcome will not end
Though it's hard to let you go
In the Father's hands we know
That a lifetime's not too long
To live as friends**

Michael W. Smith "*Friends*"

7. Because of the feeling of warmth and well-being.

There is a sense of having done right and good, when you attend Church. You will find the warmth of God's presence, and the well-being of knowing that you have done right.

We may ignore it, or reject it, but in our hearts we know we ought to attend Church.

There are three more survey selections, but I want to deal with them separately because the results were so significant.

The Survey Results

1. Learn the Bible.

About 76 percent of responders to the survey picked this category as the number one choice.

According to this survey, more people go to Church to learn the Bible, than any other reason.

2. Learn about living a good and moral life.

75 percent picked this as the second most important reason to go to Church. The second most selected reason to go to Church was to get a solid foundation for your life, and for the lives of your children.

Many people who go to Church are seeking to better themselves and their family. And, being part of the Church establishes you and grounds you in the truth.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

“But the Lord is faithful, who shall [e]stablish you, and keep you from evil.”

3. Children’s and Teen’s Bible programs.

54 percent listed that the third most important reason to go to Church was the Biblical education of their children.

Parents want their children to know about God. They want their children to have Spiritual training. They want their children to receive perhaps what they didn't receive as children. We love our children too much to leave Church out of their lives.

What does this mean?

What do these survey results tell us? They tell us that the three most compelling reason to go to Church regularly, all have to do with people wanting to learn the Bible for their own lives and the lives of their children.

People are more concerned with their Spiritual lives than any of these other reasons. And they are acting on their concern by attending Church.

In My Opinion

However good these reasons are, in my opinion the most compelling reason to go to Church is to honor, praise, and worship the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:20

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Jesus loves me and gave Himself for me. It is this blessed love that causes me to WANT to live for God.

I choose to follow Jesus. I am compelled by His love for me. Because if He died for us, should we not live for Him.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”

We invite you and your family to join us in spirited singing, worship and deep rooted Bible Preaching.

Pastor Michael Martin

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