

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why Do You Go to Church?

The Birth of the Church

Acts 2:44-47 (KJV) 44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. 46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, 47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

- After Jesus rose from the dead and before He ascended back to heaven, He told His disciples *to wait* for the coming of the Holy Spirit
- About 120 of Jesus disciples gathered in an upper room and waited for the Holy Spirit
- Suddenly, the Holy Spirit arrived like a rushing mighty wind, bringing supernatural signs of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gave to them
- People outside the upper room heard the praise and worship in their native languages and they thought the people were drunk
- Peter told the crowd these people aren't drunk, but this is the power of the Holy Spirit that Joel prophesied about
- The Holy Spirit empowered Peter to preach that it convicted the listeners and that asked, "what shall we do?"
- Peter told them to repent, be baptized and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and on that day 3,000 souls came to Christ
- These believers continued steadfastly in the word, fellowship and communion, and prayers
- They experienced the power of the Holy Spirit through the signs and wonders done by the apostles
- They continued to worship in the temple and in their individual homes
- These new believers gained favor with all people and every day God was adding to the *church* as new souls were people saved
- The word *church* is the Greek word *ecclesia*, which means "called out ones", they have been called out of their former lives into a community of believers called the church
- The church is literally wherever believers are gathered in the name of Jesus ***Matthew 18:20 (KJV) 20 For where two or***

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three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

You ARE the Church

- The early church did not have a specific or “designated” church building, but they met daily in the temple courts and in their individual homes
- The church is *not* the building, the church *is the people*
- The church building is the “place” for the church to gather corporately to worship God
- The church is more than a building you go to, it is living your life for Jesus, demonstrating God’s love by serving others, it’s sharing your faith with others
- Too many people; the unchurched and some Christians are merely church consumers; they come to the church building expecting someone to serve them and never expect to serve others
- When a believer *is* the church, they are no longer consumers; they are *contributors* to ministry and mission of the church

Why People Are Not Going to Church

Hebrews 10:25 (KJV) 25 “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; ...”

- The Bible tells us not neglect meeting together at church as some people are doing
- Why are people not gathering at church? There are many reasons:
- *Complacency* – I’m satisfied with my life the way it is
- *I’m successful* - I have all that I need or want, what can coming to church do for me?
 - There’s not wrong with success, but success has its limitations
- *Online opportunities* – There’s so much church online, through podcasts, social media and on demand, that physically coming to church is viewed as unnecessary
 - There’s nothing wrong with attending church online, but if you can attend in-person you should because there are

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some aspects of worship and church membership that are best done in-person

- *Children's activities on church days*
 - Times have changed, there was a time where church days were sacred even for children's activities
- *I have my own way of worshipping God* – for some the church is no longer the place for spiritual growth
- *Our conscience no longer bothers us* – Missing church us no longer an issue
- *I don't see any value in attending church* – For some people, they don't see personal benefit of attending church
- *No one invited me* – The unchurched, de-churched and casual Christians aren't coming to church because they haven't been invited
 - The members of the church must be willing to bring in those outside the church **Luke 14:23 (KJV) 23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.**

The Reasons Why Church Attendance is Important
Hebrews 10:25 (KJV) 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.

- Attending church is God's will for believers
- We attend church to:
 - *Worship God corporately*
 - *Fellowship with other believers*
 - *Encourage each other to live for Jesus as the Day of His return is approaching*
 - *Love one another 1 John 4:12 (NLT2) 12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.*
 - *Serve one another Galatians 5:13 (KJV) 13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*
 - *Using our gifts*

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- When a person accepts Jesus as their Savior, they are a member of the body of Christ, and for a church body to function well, all the *body parts* need to present and working **1 Corinthians 12:27 (KJV) 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.**

Tell Your Story

- Tell your unchurched, de-churched, and casual Christian friends and family what being a part of DFC means to you personally
- Tell your friends and family:
 - How being member of DFC has blessed your life
 - Your church ministered to you in difficult times
 - About the fellowship and strong relationships, you share with other believers
 - How the Word of God has enriched you, inspired you, challenged you, etc.
 - Where you are serving others and using your spiritual and secular skills in the church
 - How you've grown spiritually over the years
 - You want them to join you in worship at your church
 - Getting people connected to the church is what being the church is all about