

Lesson 9 – Why Should You Join a Church?

(Chapter 9 of Jesus Loves the Church and So Should You)

Seven Reasons You Should Join a Church

Key Verse: Colossians 1:24 & 28 – “24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:
”

The author says on page 68, “If you have converted and are a true Christian, you are responsible to become a member of a true church of Jesus Christ. **You cannot have a consistent walk with God if you are not serious about the church of Christ.**”

1. The relationship between Christ and the church.
2. The example of early Christians. Acts 2:14-47.
3. Apostolic example and practice. Acts 13:1-4 and Acts 14:23-28.
 - a. Paul dwelt in the church.
 - b. The church in Antioch had elders (church government) and laying of hands.
 - c. Paul and Barnabas were concerned with the churches they had established.
 - d. They returned to their home sending church.
 - e. Paul interacted with other churches, but in subject to the leadership of the sending church.
4. It is the focus and context of the Christian life in the NT epistles.
5. The exact and precise NT directive. Hebrews 10:23-25. Also 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
6. The Lord Jesus Christ personally and primarily interacts with local churches. Revelation 2:1 - 3:22
 - a. Prophet – He speaks to his churches, through his messengers.
 - b. Priest – he ministers to his church.
 - c. King – he holds his messengers, his church leaders in His right hand

7. The benefits you receive by being a member, that you would *not* receive otherwise.
 - a. Pastoral care. 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:7, 17; and 1 Peter 5:2-3.
 - b. Love and service of fellow members. Book, see pages 59-60.
 - c. New Testament ordinances; Book, chapter 11.
 - i. Baptism
 - ii. Communion.
 - d. Exercising spiritual gifts. Romans 12:6-8; 1 Peter 4:11.