WHY GO TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY - PART 2

Acts 20:28  The First thing to note is that it is Jesus’ church. It was purchased by His blood.

We are His church. We belong to Him. Romans 16:16  The whole Church is made up of local churches.

Reason #2  Because it is here on the Lord’s Day, Sunday that you worship Him.

But it’s so hard to get here on some Sundays. So what if it’s hard. Servanthood is not about doing what is easy, it’s about doing what is right. It is RIGHT for you to worship your Redeemer on the Lord’s Day and it is WRONG to skip it because it’s too difficult.

Reason #3  Your Ministry Begins at Church

(Eph 4:11-13)  And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

• You will not feel fulfilled, you will not be fulfilled unless you know you are doing the work of ministry.
• Every individual in church should view himself/herself as a minister of God

When are you doing the work of ministry?

Ministry is everywhere, the everyday stuff that God puts in your life in order to let Christ shine through you.

Clearly, the most important person in your life is your pastor because the most important aspect of your life is your walk with God.

What the Elder/Pastor should look like according to the Bible and what are the results or effects that Pastor should have on your life.

1. Great Authority is given to the Elders of the church.

• To the Pastor/Elder Paul said (Act 20:28) “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers …”

• To the Pastor/Elder Peter said (1Pe 5:2) shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight …

• To the Pastor/Elder Titus, Paul said after giving Titus instructions on what to preach on (Tit 2:15) Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

• To the Church Body Paul states (1Th 5:12-13) We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

• To the Church Body the author of Hebrews said (Heb 13:17) Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls …
Obey – There are two basic words translated “obey” in the Bible.

The first Greek word is used 25 times in the N.T. and it means to obey with no thought given. Translated “obey” 24 out of 25 times in KJV. It is a straight forward literal word.

The second Greek word is used 55 times in the N.T. In the KJV it is translated persuade (22x), trust (8x), obey (7x), have confidence (6x), believe (3x), be confident (2x), miscellaneous other words (7x).

Act 26:28, 2 Cor. 1:9, Heb 13:17-18 This second word for Obey is used in Hebrews 13:17

This second Greek word (πείθω paithō) never means blindly obey but rather obey because you have been persuaded and are confident that you can trust this person.

The word submit is only used one time in the entire N.T. and it means to “yield to” or “stop resisting”.

2. With that Great Authority granted by God comes a great potential for abuse.

Acts 20:17-28 To the elders he said to be on guard for themselves and their flock. First be on guard for themselves.

1 Timothy 4:12-16. Verse 12 tells the young Pastor to be a great spiritual example. Then a surprising Verse 16 “take heed … and you will save yourself and others.”

1 Tim. 4:16 (save also translated heal 3x, to make whole 9x or to be whole 2x)

To be made whole, to have spiritual growth to become more and more Christ like. You have to constantly take heed to yourself and continue in them. It is a Pastor/Elder’s responsibility to grow spiritually and that spiritual growth is to be seen by his flock. God does not permit a Pastor to proclaim Christ and not adore Christ himself. Every message a pastor preaches must first be heeded himself.

So why does God want multiple elders/pastors in a single church. It is for the same reason he sent disciples and apostles out in groups of at least 2. Watching and guarding one’s self is difficult.

Is there a Super Elder/Pastor who makes the final decision in the church? The answer is “NO”. The elders together do the “ruling” or “leading” of the church. John McArthur is known as the “Pastor” of Grace Community Church. But that doesn’t mean he “runs” the church or that the spiritual decisions of the church runs through him. John would abhor that concept. Some will say “I thought the Preaching/Teaching pastor of the church made all the final decisions”. That would defeat the purpose of multiple elders.

1 Tim. 5:17 - The Elder who does the preaching and teaching well in the church and is financially supported for his labors is usually known as The Pastor of the church. Pastor Joel is known as The Pastor of our church and rightfully so. However, if I was opposed to something that he proposed to do then Pastor Joel would graciously state “OK, then we won’t do that”. Same thing goes if Pastor Jesse opposed something that Pastor Joel or I proposed. Also from time to time all three of us have encouraged each other to do better in our preaching and teaching and personal walk with God. That is the way an elder team should work.

You as the flock should respond positively to the teaching from the pulpit for your ministry sake.

- We are here not for our sakes but for yours.
- We are here to equip you for the work of ministry that God would be glorified in your life
- We do that by teaching the Word of God to you after laboring in it ourselves, applying it to our own personal lives and praying for the Holy Spirit to apply it to you.