

## **Do I Need to Go to Church If I Am a Christian? Reality Check, Pt. 2**

Acts 2:42-47, Matthew 16:16-18, Ephesians 5:25-27  
September 15, 2024

**Hebrews 10:24**, *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 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.*

### **Jesus and the Church:**

- **Jesus WENT to Church**

**Luke 2:49**, “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s House?”

**Luke 4:15**, *He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. **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.*

- **Jesus ESTABLISHED the Church**

**Matthew 16:16**, *Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ... **18** And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*

- **Jesus LOVED the Church**

**Ephesians 5:25**, *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water*

*through the word, **27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

- **Jesus Is RETURNING for the Church**

**Revelation 19:7**, *Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. **8** Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (*Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.*) **9** Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”*

**Revelation 21:1**, *Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.*

### **The New Testament Church:**

**Acts 2:38**, *Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off..”*

**Acts 2:40**, *With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” **41** Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

Acts 2:42, They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

#### What You Should Look for in a Church:

- A Church That Is Passionate About Lost and Hurting People and Preaches the GOSPEL
- A Church That Baptizes New BELIEVERS
- A Church that Teaches the Word and Does Not Compromise the MESSAGE
- A Church That Is Excited About WORSHIP
- A Church That Has a Place for You and Your CHILDREN
- A Church That Encourages Friendships and FELLOWSHIP

- A Church That Challenges You to Be a Contributor Not a CONSUMER
- A Church That Impacts the Community and Has a Good REPUTATION
- A Church That Is Growing and Reaching PEOPLE

1 Corinthians 12:14, Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. **15** Now 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.

1 Peter 2:5, you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."