

7 Reasons Why People Do Not Belong to a Church

1. People tend to see the church as a place to attend instead of a community that transforms, thus not belonging to a church.
2. People tend to see the church as place of rituals instead of a place of relationships, thus not belonging to a church.
3. People tend to believe that church membership is an option not an obligation, thus not belonging to a church.
4. People tend to be more committed to themselves than to a community, thus not belonging to a church.
5. People tend to struggle with submitting to authority, thus not belonging to a church.
6. People tend to focus more on the pay, personality, preferences, and problems of a Pastor without evaluating him to see if the person, precepts, plan, and power of God are flowing through the Pastor, thus not belonging to a church.
7. People tend to focus more on past pain with pastors or parishioners, thus not belonging to a church.

7 Reasons Why We Should Commit Ourselves to Belong through Church Membership

1. God has commanded Christians to consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds. This requires commitment and consistency. One cannot faithfully fulfill God's command to do this apart from being committed to a body of Christians in a local area so that they may focus on stimulating them to love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:24)
2. God has commanded Christians not to forsake assembling together on a habitual basis and encouraging one another. One cannot faithfully fulfill God's command to do this apart from being committed to a local Body of Christ. Being committed to one another in a local assembly is an obligation not an option. (Hebrews 10:25)
3. God has commanded Christians to help each other stay out of sin. If one is not committed to a local Body of Christ, they cannot be helped with their sin issues on a regular a basis, nor help

others with their sin on a regular basis, which will result in everyone drifting into more sin problems. (Hebrews 3:12-13, Galatians 6:1-2)

4. The Church is the primary place where God intended His people to mature in **faith** in Him and to mature in **Christ-like character**. If one is not committed to membership in a local Body of Christ that is serious about evangelism and discipleship, they will be stagnant in their understanding of God and stagnant in growing in Christ-like character. He will not be building up others nor be built up by others. (Ephesians 4:11-17)
5. Leaders of local churches are responsible for **watching over** and **giving an account** for those who are under their responsibility through membership at that local Body of Christ. Therefore, if you are not a member of a local church where they are serious about evangelism and discipleship, you do not have the covering, protection, provision and building up that God provides through that Church leadership. The leaders are not obligated to look after you or watch over you because you are not committed to membership at that local assembly. (Acts 20:28-32, 1 Peter 5:1-2)
6. Christians are called to **obey** the leaders of the local church because those leaders keep **watch over** their souls. If you are not committed to membership in a local assembly, how can you be committed to following the leaders of that assembly? How can the leaders truly keep watch over someone who is not committed to membership and not committed to following their leadership? (Hebrews 13:17)
7. Christians are called to **imitate** the **faith** of their leaders in the local assembly. How can you genuinely imitate the faith of someone with whose leadership you are not under as a result of not being committed to membership and not being committed to following leadership at that local assembly? (Hebrews 13:7)

Key Point: Being committed to a local church is more than committing to a location. It is being connected to a **Community** of Believers in a local area who have committed themselves to membership, magnification, maturity, ministry and missions while following the managers of that local community as called by God to do so. “The quality of a church is therefore measured by the condition and commitment of the people to this process not the condition of the building or the appeal of the worship service” (Life in the Father’s House: Introduction). So the local church is only as good as the condition and commitment of the people who make up that church. God has not only united Christians to Himself, He has also connected them to each other. A Christian not committed to a Community of Believers who are serious about evangelism and discipleship is like a fish out of water. They won’t last long because they are out of their environment. If you **believe** in Jesus Christ then you should **belong** to a local assembly of Jesus Christ that is committed to evangelism and discipleship. Where do you stand? (Acts 2:37-47)

(For more details, read the book *Life in the Father’s House* by Wayne Mack and David Swavely.)