

Does God Care Which Church I Attend?

The question above is often asked by those who have yet to respond to the gospel. For many, they have been deceived into thinking it really doesn't matter which church they choose to attend.

As we do our best to fulfill the Great Commission given by Jesus, we need to be prepared and equipped to help the lost around us understand what the Bible says about this issue.

We need to be prepared to tell the lost that God does care which church a person chooses to attend...

I. **Because not every church was built by Jesus.**

A. See Matthew 16:18.

1. Jesus says that He was going to build His church. The word "church" is translated from the Greek word "ekklesia." It does not refer to a building, but rather people. Specifically, it refers to those who have answered God's call through the gospel to come out of darkness into light.
2. Jesus says that there would be a group of people who belonged to Him (1 Peter 2:9-10). These people make up His church.
3. Not even death would be able to stop Jesus from building His church (Acts 2:36-47).
4. In the first century, no one would have asked, "Does God care which church I attend?" Why? Because there was only one church during that time! It was the Lord's church.

B. Jesus is the head of the church that He established (Ephesians 1:22-23).

1. The church is His body (Ephesians 4:4; 5:25).
2. The church was purchased by His blood (Acts 20:28).
3. Do you think God wants us to be part of a church that wasn't built by Jesus?

II. **Because not every church uses the Bible as its standard .**

A. For some churches...

1. They could care less what the Bible says.
2. The Bible is not enough. They need other books to guide them along with the Bible.
3. They feel that God is continuing to give revelation today.
4. They feel that some parts of the Bible are inspired, but others are not.
5. They put more emphasis on their personal experiences with the Holy Spirit.

B. The church of Jesus uses only the Bible as its standard (Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 3:16-16; 1 Corinthians 14:37; 2 Peter 1:3).

1. Following only the Bible helps us achieve the unity that Jesus prayed for (John 17:20-21).
2. Following only the Bible ensures that we do God's will (Matthew 7:21-23).

III. **Because not every church promotes God's plan of salvation .**

A. While some churches promote "belief only" salvation or predestination, the Bible is clear on this issue (1 Timothy 2:4; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

B. Do you think God wants us to be part of a church that teaches error in regard to the most important issue in the world?

IV. **Because not every church is concerning with biblical morality.**

A. While some groups will look the other way when it comes to immorality, the church that belongs to Jesus does not (Matthew 19:9; 1 Corinthians 5:2-13).

B. Do you think Jesus wants us to be part of a church that does not promote moral purity?