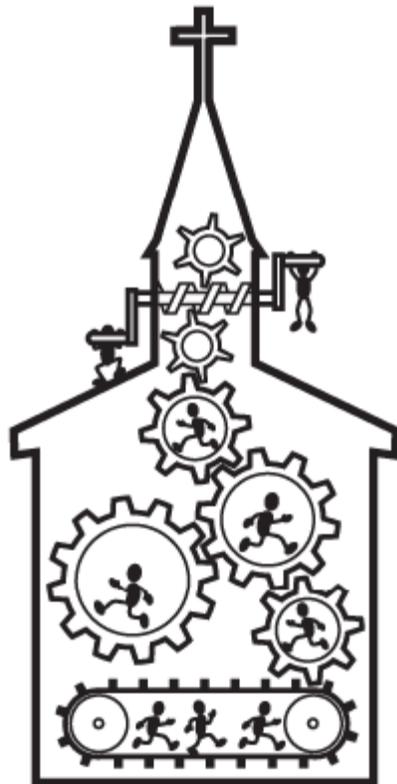


FIRM FOUNDATION CLASS



How To Choose Your Church Home Lesson 7

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HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR CHURCH HOME

Acts 18:19 shows the Apostle Paul was one who was a churchgoer. Usually when Paul visited a town, the first thing he did was find a good church to attend. A Christian naturally desires fellowship with other Christians, and the Bible commands that we have it. *Hebrews 10:25* exhorts that Christians should not forsake the assembling of themselves together. But the question that each Christian must deal with is which church in my community should I attend? Of course, your church home should have the qualities of the New Testament church. In this lesson, we will study some guidelines for you in choosing a church.

I. YOUR CHURCH SHOULD BE WINNING SOULS

When Jesus called His disciples in *Mark 1:17*, He said He would make them fishers of men. The call of Christ for these disciples was to win men. That was their superior objective, and so it should be for you and the church you attend. Their whole purpose and program should be to win men for Christ.

II. YOUR CHURCH SHOULD BE UNITED

"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought." (*1 Cor. 1:10*).

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place." (*Acts 2:1*).

The Bible describes the Christians as a body, with Christ as the head, united in its purposes, activities, and functions. The early church was well known for its united effort, such as on the day of Pentecost. In the same way, your church home should be united to be able to do a great work for God.

III. YOUR CHURCH SHOULD BE LOVING

"Keep on loving each other as brothers." (*Hebrews 13:1*).

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (*John 13:35*).

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." (*John 15:12*).

As Christ and the early Christians were known for their love for one another, so should we as Christians today, individually and collectively as a church, be known for our love. The programs of your church home should show a love and concern for people whether they are Christians or not.

IV. YOUR CHURCH SHOULD BE SPIRITUAL

"...my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." (*Isaiah 56:7*)

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (*Acts 2:42*).

The early church can be noted for its spirituality as seen in its prayer life and study of the Word. Your church home should emphasize the expounding of God's Word and have fervency in prayer. Only then will a church have the vitality and life it needs to do the job for the kingdom.

V. YOUR CHURCH SHOULD BE MISSIONARY MINDED

"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.'" (*Acts 13:2-3*)

As the first century church, your church home should be interested that men and women around the world have the Gospel and receive Christ. *Acts 1:8* gives us the pattern for evangelism, starting at home and moving out to the world.

VI. YOUR CHURCH SHOULD BE WELL ATTENDED

Churches that are "not interested in numbers" are really not interested in people. Luke records the Lord telling his servant to "... Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full." (*Luke 14:23*). Our Lord was interested in people; crowds followed Him; and He ministered to multitudes. In the same way, your church should be interested in reaching the masses for Christ.

VII. YOUR CHURCH SHOULD BELIEVE IN TITHING

It is the Biblical way to operate Christ's church. It is a reasonable, fair and workable way to operate God's business. God is not in the cake selling, rummage sales, or car washing businesses. God intended for His work to be financed by His people faithfully tithing their income every week. Your church should believe in and practice tithing for every member. - *Malachi 3:8-10*

VIII. YOUR CHURCH SHOULD BE A TRAINING CENTER SPIRITUALLY

The church should be the place where Christians are trained for service in soul-winning, in follow-up, and in Biblical teaching. As Paul charged young Timothy, the church should "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction." (*II Tim. 4:2*).

IX. YOUR CHURCH SHOULD BE A FRIENDLY CHURCH

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." (*I Peter 4:9*).

"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." (*Hebrews 13:2*).

Many times the thing that impresses unsaved visitors in a church is the friendliness and hospitality of the members. Each Christian should consider himself a welcoming committee so that the church will be a happy place to visit.

X. YOUR CHURCH SHOULD BE A WORKING CHURCH

"Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat." (*II Thess.3:12*)

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (*I Corinthians 15:58*).

Of course, a church that will be on the move and doing something for God will be a working church. God's Word shames lazy Christians, and God's church should be a picture of men and women working together in unity for souls.

XI. AS YOU FIND YOUR CHURCH HOME, REMEMBER

1. You will be a factor in the success of your church.

Ephesians 4:16 shows that the church in which each member is actively doing his part will be the church that will grow. That puts the responsibility for the success of your church home on you - the individual church member!

2. God wants you to be faithful to your church home.

1 Corinthians 4:2 shows us how we, as stewards, are to be faithful in all we do. That not only refers to giving, but it refers to faithfulness in church attendance, faithfulness in working, faithfulness in prayer, and faithfulness in winning others to Christ.

3. Your church should take the pattern of the New Testament Church.

Acts 2:41-47 describes how the early church worked:

- a. People received the word with gladness.
- b. They were baptized
- c. They continued in the Apostle's doctrine.
- d. They had fellowship with each other.
- e. They had prayer together.
- f. They took care of Christians in need.
- g. They praised God.
- h. They were respected by the world.
- i. They continued to have people saved.