

# The Christian Arsenal

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## HOW TO CHOOSE A CHURCH

Building My Character Through Commitment

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Part 1 of 5

Ephesians 2:19

*"...You are members of God's very own family and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Ephesians 2:19 (LB)*

- The Church is a Family
- A Christian isn't just a believer, but a belonger.

*"In Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:5*

When you become a member of a church it means you're actively involved.

You're more than just a spectator, you're a participator.

You're not just a consumer, you're a contributor.

You're not just along for the ride, you're part of the crew.

### WHAT THE RIGHT CHURCH CAN DO FOR ME

#### 1. It helps me stay spiritually motivated.

*"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together ... Instead let us encourage one another ..." Heb 10:25 (GN)*

The Bible says the Church is to be a place of encouragement.

*"Have fellowship with one another ... greet ... love ... accept ... be devote to .. be kind and compassionate ..." I John 1:7, Rom. 16:16, John 13:35, Rom 15:7, Rom 12:10, Eph 4:32*

The church is an extended family.

*"Share each other's troubles and problems, and so obey our Lord's command." Gal 6:2 (LB)*

The church helps me to stay spiritually motivated.

#### 2. It helps me develop spiritual maturity.

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*“Let us go on ... and become mature in our understanding, as strong Christians ought to be.”* Heb 6:1 (LB)

*“They were baptized ... and joined the other believers in regular attendance at the apostles’ teaching sessions ... They worshiped together regularly at the Temple ... and met in small groups in the homes for communion...”* Acts 2:41,42,46 (LB)

The purpose of a good church is to help you grow spiritually and to develop spiritual maturity.

*“Instruct one another ... teach and counsel one another ... build up each other ...”* Rom 15:14, Col 3:16, I Thess. 5:12

### **3. It helps me discover my ministry.**

All of us have a deep inner need that says:

Does my life count?

Am I making a contribution?

Am I giving back in some way?

*“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good work, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* Eph 2:10

*“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other.”* I Peter 4:10 (LB)

The good works are called your ministry.

Every member is a minister.

If you don’t discover your ministry, you’ll never be fulfilled.

*“God has given pastors and teachers ... to prepare all God’s people for Christian service ...”* Eph 4:11-12 (GN)

5 factors in your life that the Church is to help you develop:

- Spiritual Gifts
- Heart (Passion)
- Abilities
- Personality
- Experiences

God says the secret to fulfillment is to do what God made me to do.

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*“There are different kinds of service ... together you form the Body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it.”* I Cor. 12:5, 27 (LB)

If you are not using your ministry, you're cheating other Christians.

A non-serving Christian is a contradiction.

The difference between a member and an attender:

A member is a participator – an attender is a spectator.

A member is a contributor – an attender is a consumer.

An attender says, “I’m along for the ride.”

A member says, “I’m a crew member.”

#### **4. It helps me fulfill my mission in life.**

Everybody needs a cause to live for and a purpose greater than themselves.

If you're a Christian you are responsible for what's called The Great Commission.

*“Life is worth nothing unless I use it doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus – the work of telling others about the Good News of God's kindness and love.”* Acts 20:24

There are two things you can't do in heaven. One is sin and the other is tell non-believers about Christ. Which of these two do you think God left you here on earth to do?

*“We are Christ's Ambassadors ...”* 2 Cor. 5:20

If you are a believer you represent Jesus Christ at

- Work
- School
- In your neighborhood

#### **HOW TO CHOOSE A CHURCH FAMILY**

Never join a church until you know where it is headed.

1. Its Statement. (Eph. 4:4-6)  
ASK: Do they accept the Bible as God's complete Word?
2. Its Style (John 4:23-24)  
ASK: Does the worshipo style help me feel God's presence?
3. Its Strategy (Acts 1:8)

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ASK: Does it take the Great Commission seriously?

4. Its Structure (I Cor. 14:40)

ASK: Is there a sense of freedom?

## THREE REASONS WHY I THINK YOU NEED TO JOIN A CHURCH

1. To build my character.

Character is built through commitment.

*"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ ..."* Phil 2:4-5

2. To deepen relationships.

*"You should be like one big happy family ... loving one another with tender hearts ..."* I Peter 3:8 (LB)

Article titled: "Whatever Happened to Commitment?"

"Commitment is at the foundation of all human relationships. It's what human relationships are all about. We're made to live in relationship with others. A person who withdraws all commitment to others ceases to be human."

You can't have a relationship to any degree without commitment.

3. To be like Christ.

*"Christ loved the church, and He gave His life for it."* Eph 5:25

You can't say, "I accept Christ" and then reject His body!

Commitment to Christ implies a commitment to the rest of the family.

*"...I will build my Church."* Matt 16:18

Find a church and commit to it!