

Choosing A Church

Regular Church attendance is a high priority in the life of a Christian. Deciding which Church to attend is an important and difficult decision to make. Any local Church must provide essential avenues of Spiritual growth where a believer can “plug-in” and participate.

TEACHING: Does the pastoral team adequately teach God’s Word in a way you can understand and that encourages you in your walk with Christ?

WORSHIP: Is corporate worship a *must* in your life? Do you feel called or led to worship God; to sing to Him, to pray to Him, and to rejoice in Him? Dynamic corporate worship is essential in building unity in the body of Christ.

FELLOWSHIP: The Christian life is not a call to a monastery, it’s a corporate experience of life together. Are you being encouraged to develop meaningful and accountable relationships?

PRAYER: Does the Church place a high value on prayer? Do they rely upon God and His strength or do they depend solely upon techniques to become who God wants them to be?

Doctrine, Dogma, and Denomination

We live in an era of decreasing denominational loyalties. What should you look for in a Church?

Jesus

Is Jesus the acknowledged head of the Church?

Matthew 16:18 *I (Jesus) will build My Church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (NIV)*

Ephesians 2:19-20 *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. (NIV)*

God’s Word

Does the Church place a high value on the authority and teaching of God’s Word, The Bible?

II Timothy 3:16-17 *All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (NIV)*

Spiritual Leadership

Is the leadership of the Church committed to supporting and encouraging the pastor as he guides the Church to follow Christ? Is the leadership comprised of men and women who lead with integrity, who fulfill the Biblical mandates of leadership?

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (NIV)*

Ephesians 4:11-13 *It was He (Jesus) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (NIV)*

Ministry

Does the Church believe that ministry is not simply being ministered to, but encourages every member to use their gifts and resources to minister to others?

I Corinthians 12:4-6 *Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are many ways in which God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work in and through all of us who are His. (TLB)*

Making A Decision

Visit the Church where Christ has directed you more than one time. Look for consistency in the areas mentioned above. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide and direct your heart and mind as you make a decision. Pray about the Church being a place where you can both minister and be ministered unto.

We’ll pray with you. Perhaps Karcher Church will be your new Church home.

What about Church Hopping

Nowhere in the Bible is Church hopping encouraged. In fact, only in Acts 13:1-3 is there specific teaching on leaving a local Church, and that was for Paul and Barnabas to go on the first mission trip to start new Churches. If you are prompted to go to a different Church in your community, usually it’s because:

1. **Problems in relationships:** If there is a problem between you and the leadership of your Church, before you leave, attempt to reconcile any differences you may have. Don’t wait for the other person to come to you ... you make the first move. You may still be led to seek another Church home, but always leave on good terms with the fellowship of the former Church.

2. **Lack of ministry:** You may leave if a Church lacks a specific ministry; children, youth, singles, etc. Before you leave, determine if you might be the person God wants to start that ministry. No Church can provide for every ministry need. God may have placed you there for that purpose.

3. **Friendship:** You may decide to leave a local Church because no one knows you, or you don’t feel needed. The Bible teaches very plainly that every member of the Body is necessary and has a role to fill. Perhaps no one knows you because you haven’t let your availability be known.

Every Church has a potential place for you to serve. Don’t wait for others to come to you ... make the first move.

If you’re unhappy in your Church, speak with your pastor. Let the leadership team pray with you and for you as you seek to determine God’s good, pleasing, and perfect will for your life.