

General Topics :: about attending church

about attending church - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2009/7/9 11:02

Things have changed were I was attending church, several new pastors have come and they are now looking to pattern themselves after Saddleback church in California. I believe Rick Warren is the pastor there. This has been coming for a while now. I know some about their teaching style but wonder what others here thought? IF this is the only church in the area to attend besides a Mormon, or Catholic church is it better to just stay with them and keep going or to not go at all? At this point both my husband and myself are not really sure what we should do. We don't agree with the growth stuff(wanting to attract big crowds), or the attitudes that sin is not a big deal. We have been praying about this for awhile now.

rdg

Re: about attending church, on: 2009/7/9 11:28

Dear rainydaygirl:

We live in Orange County California and have been to Warren's Purpose Driven Church several times. No one brings a Bible because Rick teaches out of 4-5 versions with each sermon. Everyone just reads what is flashed on the wide screen Televisions. You will not be fed the Word of God at the purpose driven model.

Have you ever thought of opening up your home and having Church there? You can initially invite others from your neighborhood, and then, as you witness to those that the Lord puts in your path, invite new believers into your home Church, where they will actually be fed the Word of God, and equipped to become mature Saints. I really think that is the direction that we are headed in. First to the homes, and then underground as we get closer to the rapture.

God bless,

Walter

Quote:

rainydaygirl wrote:

Things have changed were I was attending church, several new pastors have come and they are now looking to pattern themselves after Saddleback church in California. I believe Rick Warren is the pastor there. This has been coming for awhile now. I know some about their teaching style but wonder what others here thought? IF this is the only church in the area to attend besides a Mormon, or Catholic church is it better to just stay with them and keep going or to not go at all? At this point both my husband and myself are not really sure what we should do. We don't agree with the growth stuff(wanting to attract big crowds), or the attitudes that sin is not a big deal. We have been praying about this for awhile now.

rdg

Re: , on: 2009/7/9 13:32

Once you drop out of the American institutional church... you'll be set free, and you'll never go back.

Krispy

Re: - posted by robbyk (), on: 2009/7/9 13:42

Quote:

waltern wrote:

Have you ever thought of opening up your home and having Church there? You can initially invite others from your neighborhood, and then, as you witness to those that the Lord puts in your path, invite new believers into your home Church, where they will actually be fed the Word of God, and equipped to become mature Saints. I really think that is the direction that we are headed in. First to the homes, and then underground as we get closer to the rapture.

For years, we attended one of our city's largest churches which recently disintegrated in controversies over willow creek, purpose driven models, charismatic vs not, etc. In fact it blew up several times over a couple of years. Eventually, my pastor who fervently preached the Bible was dismissed.

Most of the attendees have gone over to another giant seeker friendly church which caters to the youth and university crowd and has about 15 services, a mall, etc.

I followed my pastor and we have a fellowship. We met in his basement for the 1st year but have moved into larger quarters in a community center now and have about 25 or so people in attendance. We pack in the coffee, sound system and such every Sunday morning

I believe I am right where I should be and feel equipped to handle all that is coming.

As a side note, our community is truly a community like I have never experienced in church. I recently crushed my foot and have been unable to walk for a little over 5 months and it is my community who has come in and mowed my lawn, called often and prayed fervently, etc.

It's wonderful

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2009/7/9 13:45

KrispyKrittr wrote:

Quote:

Once you drop out of the American institutional church... you'll be set free, and you'll never go back.

Krispy

:-) 8-) :-)

Re: , on: 2009/7/9 14:12

That was a great testimony Robbyk. It really blessed me. Thank you for sharing that.

Re: , on: 2009/7/9 14:41

Some great replies, especially Krispy's and Robbyk's. There is something that is happening all over the world right now in Christendom. God is separating His remnant people from the established church. He is driving them out by drought and famine. He is preparing His Bride for the return of the Bridegroom. Many are confused and lonely even within their mega churches as they see blindness all around them as to the state of the church and so on. People who have no idea what they are talking about when they talk about "knowing Jesus," or His presence. You can read more about this remnant in the last four posts here <http://scottishwarriors.wordpress.com/>

.....Frank

Re: about attending church - posted by TracyInMD (), on: 2009/7/9 14:43

Quote:

-----...is it better to just stay with them and keep going or to not go at all?

Hi RDG, I found this thought helpful with myself over the past few years. Church in Greek is (<http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?strongsg1577>) "ekklesia", which if the two derivatives are dissected, this term means the assembly of those called out or summoned. When used in a spiritual sense, which we DO, it by very definition means the PEOPLE who are saved. If I'm wrong on that, someone pls correct me, cause I don't want to mislead. I know we've come to use it as something else (building), but I've come to believe we should not.

By not using it correctly, I believe we've come to love either the building or organizational chart way more than the people within. People accuse those who depart from the institutional church as being "cowboy Christians" (and perhaps some DO want independence), but I find that the majority of those who've left desire the interdependent church described in th

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e Bible, the pillar and support of the truth, and not the so-called church that marginalizes the truth.

Cowboy Christianity is the norm with the Sunday churches, where people sit side by side with polite strangers, whose lives could be falling apart for all they know or care. Some will justify this unBiblical model with "there is no perfect church", but I've come to fully believe that the Biblical model is possible, even in our day. I even believe that God is gathering us up to make it so.

It happens that for personal reasons I'm currently attending a so-called church, but I eventually realized that the people there will NOT exhort me to follow God, but merely attend church. Therefore I started meeting w/ women outside of Sunday/Wednesday...not just ANY women and not to talk about crafts. We meet w/ a focus on God and His glory. I have a number of women like this to gain the fellowship I need, although it is still lacking because we are geographically dispersed. I truly believe if you pray, God will grant you others of like mind and devotion to Christ. It is His WILL that we gather according to His definition of gathering.

I'll pray for you, for it's my heart for those going through exactly this.

Re: about attending church - posted by Lysa (), on: 2009/7/9 14:47

rdg,

I'm going back to church this Sunday! I've been out for about three years. I believe the Lord leading me back. It's a small church and three of their people (two are my good friends) have been baptized in the Holy Spirit in the last month!!! Wow, that's more than any pentecostal church has seen, I'm thinking! This is a baptist belief church which makes this so awesome, the pastor is not closed to this at all. I don't know how long I'll be there, I don't know what He wants me to do but I'm learning I must obey because He doesn't let me stay in my comfort zone!!

I've also learning that **God does not see denominations, He sees those who have hungry hearts!!** While we are down here arguing over Calvin and Armininism (sp?), He just knows them as two men who loved him not the beliefs that divide churches.

Anyway, I'm excited! I wish you well in your journey.

Re: - posted by JCGarc55, on: 2009/7/9 16:10

very interesting testimony. It is very similar to how our church came to be. We started at my friend's house(who is our pastor) doing bible study, and it grew over a year's time where we converted his garage into a sanctuary. The Lord opened a door in an incredible way where we now rent a building. There are many other churches that have similar stories. I attend home schooling conferences and have met others who are in the same situation. To make a long story short, i feel very blessed in the local body I worship with and it is such a blessing to look forward to going to our meetings whether it's prayer night, bible study, or Sunday worship.

Re: - posted by reformer, on: 2009/7/9 16:34

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:

Once you drop out of the American institutional church... you'll be set free, and you'll never go back.

Krispy

AMEN to that...we did, and our walk with the Lord has never been the same.

Now the hard part is finding other believers to fellowship with, for once you drop from the institutional church, you will know if you truly had friends in Christ. you will find that many will not understand you, and avoid you.

:~)

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Re: , on: 2009/7/9 17:44

Something else which I've seen is people leaving an institutional church and then creating another one in their home.

Re: - posted by sonofthunder (), on: 2009/7/9 18:26

The American model of the church is ONE that is is (being embrace by many western churches (all over the world) Even as we speak - Including england, australia, new zealand, and canada. Ecet.! And most are following whatever proceeds forth from saddleback and willowcreek ...and the (George barna association) who is the supposed "guru" of church growth!! With his step by step DVD'S and books (how to do) the "business" of church! And market yourself - to the community. Apperently we need these guides and these models to be successful - Even though peter james and john didn't?? hmmm.

Re: , on: 2009/7/9 19:16

Even the 'house church' movement is moving towards heavy marketing and sales type strategies, seminars, and such. I've often wondered what the apostles would think about all of these marketing type strategies and models which seem to be growing amongst the Body.

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2009/7/9 23:53

Hiswill_i_am wrote:

Quote:

Something else which I've seen is people leaving an institutional church and then creating another one in their home.

Yes

Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2009/7/10 1:46

thanks for the advice everyone. Its a really sad to see so many churches following after this pattern of teaching. At this point I think it will be better to walk away then to stay and sit under teaching that is soft on sin.

rdg

edit: just wanted to also say that for now this will be my last post. Many things happening in my life lately that I just need to take some time and really be more in the Bible and before God.

Re: - posted by reformer, on: 2009/7/10 6:54

Quote:

sonofthunder wrote:

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That is hard to believe George Barna is peddling church growth tactics to the evangelical community. Quite the opposite, he is part of house church movement and has left the institutional church system and has not looked back. I believe he does have DVD's that help train children, lay persons with in the body to be effective leaders in there community.

But then again...it all comes down to the mighty dollar, so I could be wrong.

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Re: - posted by reformer, on: 2009/7/10 7:05

Quote:

Hiswill_i_am wrote:
Even the 'house church' movement is moving towards heavy marketing and sales type strategies, seminars, and such. I've often wondered what the apostles would think about all of these marketing type strategies and models which seem to be growing amongst the Body.

Correct about this. Frank Viola's book Pagan Christianity highlights this very idea. That some house churches are no different than a typical church on Sunday.

We love as a people, seminars, conferences, lectures and so on. WE easily turn something that is simple and make it so complicated. Maybe I am a stick in the mud, but I know a guy who started a Christian counseling ministry, he found an office, they voted and set up a board of directors, financial team and marketing development. Just wonder, if the apostles operated in this way, not that it is wrong in what some do, but curious to know the difference. I just think we like our things in place and organized...but if it gets the job done that is good.

Re: , on: 2009/7/10 10:05

Quote:

Now the hard part is finding other believers to fellowship with, for once you drop from the institutional church, you will know if you truly had friends in Christ. you will find that many will not understand you, and avoid you.

Yes... people are so caught up in the American church mindset that anything contrary to what they deem to be "church" is looked at as apostate. They pray for their Chinese brethren who meet in caves, but not that they may stay strong but rather that someday soon their brethren will be able to meet in pristine new church buildings like us wonderful Americans.

They don't realize that our Chinese brethren are praying for US!! That we would get off our butts and commit ourselves to the Lord 100% like they have!

If I started a church that met in a cave here in America... it would be labeled a cult by every pulpit in America.

Krispy

Re: - posted by reformer, on: 2009/7/10 10:12

Quote:

If I started a church that met in a cave here in America... it would be labeled a cult by every pulpit in America.

Brother krispy...so true!!!

Re: , on: 2009/7/10 13:04

Quote:

That is hard to believe George Barna is peddling church growth tactics to the evangelical community. Quite the opposite, he is part of house church movement and has left the institutional church system and has not looked back. I believe he does have DVD's that help train children, lay persons with in the body to be effective leaders in their community.

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I don't know if George Barna is connected to Frank Viola's PTMin, but if he is then I am sad to say that they have really been heavy inot marketing and business.

I visited Frank Viola's website recently and left a comment/question on one of his articles. It says something about reading all of the responses but not being able to respond to them all. So I figured if he answers my question, cool. If not cool.

Well, I got an answer to my question in the form of, "Very Good question. You'll find your answers in my new book....." Then I was informed that I was added to their mailing list to receive thier ministry news. Then I started getting advertisements promoting their books and conferences. I was very disappointed because they seemed to be on the right track.

Re: - posted by reformer, on: 2009/7/10 14:15

Quote:

Hiswill_i_am wrote:

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Yeah...I get those same emails. But Franks book, Pagan Christianity has been very profitable to my me in understanding much about the history of the church. if I could make a living writing books that people enjoyed...heck I would do it. :-)

We life in a material I guess...

Re: , on: 2009/7/10 14:35

Pagan Christianity was also very confirming to me, as well. It just made me sad to see the same type of worldiness amongst a 'movement' which seems to be looking in the right direction, ya know? If they can't recognize the spirit which they are walking in then even though they seek to do a good thing, it's going to be doomed as a repeat of the very thing which they seem to be speaking against. They'll just become a new denomination with a different mask. This is where mixture always leads us.

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2009/7/10 14:55

Check out "Revolution" by George Barna. This book was key in helping explain things to me as a very new believer transitioning into a House Church.

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Re: , on: 2009/7/10 16:03

I've recommended Pagan Christianity so many times on this forum it's enough to make a fox stop chasing hens.

Have never received back a negative comment on it either. Everyone I know who has read it has had something positive to say about it.

Krispy

Re: Rick Warren and the Emergant Church - posted by deltadom (), on: 2009/7/11 19:21

This is a complex subject!

(<http://moriel.org/MorielArchive/index.php/discernment/church-issues/purpose-driven/a-letter-to-rick-warren-on-your-statements-on-islam>) A letter to Rick Warren about Islam

Moriel deals very well about the Purpose Driven Agenda which is even so brash as to try and unite with Islam!

Quote:
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rdg

I would get out of that Church as fast as you can! We used to go to a church that was into the Toronto Blessing when we used to tell non Christians what was going on they thought it was crazy!
There are many Threads on this site I think that deal with Rick Warren!
There are probably many people like minded who also want to leave!
Get out DOM

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2009/7/11 22:31

Quote:
-----it would be labeled a cult by every pulpit in America.

And it may well be true, too, unfortunately.

House church is not the cure for what ails American Christianity. Repentance is, and I am sure all will agree on this. One must needs be open minded about where God's people meet for worship lest you become distracted by a mindset that is closed to where God is leading you. It could be in a cave, in a home, a barn, a brush arbor, or a churchhouse. The building is not what makes a church: it is people.

Blessings,
ginnyrose

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Re: - posted by dunlow64God, on: 2009/7/11 22:45

Amen and amen ginnyrose...the people are the church...no matter where they choose to gather!!! REPENTANCE has become a four-letter word in a lot of "churches" these days...we definitely need repenting! I pray for a spirit of repentance to settle over ALL churches no matter where they choose to meet!!! And not just churches, but homes, businesses, restaurants, grocery stores, how about the whole nation!!! Why not the whole world!!! Before it's too late! (I've been studying the book of Jeremiah...can you tell??? :-D)

In Christ,
Wendy :-)

Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2009/7/11 22:45

Quote:

ginnyrose wrote:

Quote:

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Blessings,
ginnyrose

Very well stated sister and I do believe is true to the word of God.

Blessings to you!

Re: , on: 2009/7/12 1:21

Amen, ginnyrose.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2009/7/12 8:37

Quote:

----- (I've been studying the book of Jeremiah...can you tell???)

Wendy, I just love these OT prophets! Bro. Isaiah's writings rank among my favorites although I love Jeremiah also. Basically they are sermons that have been transcribed. I got real interested in them when we had a preacher that would read them for devotional at church. I was struck initially by the beauty of the language. Then I got into the heart of the message and I have been smitten ever since! :-)

I will say this about Bro. Isaiah's writings...there is some humor in there, a very subtle humor. When I read Isaiah, sometimes I get the sense that if I would look up I could see a twinkle in God's eyes with a hint of a smile on His face!

Yes, you are not alone on this, Wendy!

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Blessings,
ginnyrose

Re: - posted by StarofGOD (), on: 2009/7/12 12:02

Quote:
-----Some will justify this unBiblical model with "there is no perfect church", but I've come to fully believe that the Biblical model is possible, even in our day. I even believe that God is gathering us up to make it so.

Thank you for this statement. There is still hope for the people of God!