

More Comfortable

CASE STUDY 8

"I heard you are going to a different church," Marianne said to Cheryl. "Why did you leave our church? I thought you enjoyed coming. You seemed to get along well with everyone. And everyone seemed to like you."

"I started going to that church in Rockland," Cheryl replied. "I feel more comfortable there."

"Comfortable? In what way?" Marianne asked.

"I don't feel beat over the head with the Bible every time the pastor preaches," Cheryl said. "His messages inspire me and encourage me. I feel uplifted and whole when I leave the church on Sundays. I felt the pastor at the other church expected too much from me. At my new church, I am freer to be my own person now. The people there don't judge me. They accept me for who I am, and I do the same for them." 1. Evaluate Cheryl's decision to change churches.

2. Why do you think Cheryl felt so uncomfortable at her former church?

3. What connection do you see between Cheryl and those with "itching ears" in 2 Timothy 4:1–5?

4. Why is it so dangerous to preach according to what people want to hear?

5. How could you strengthen your own handling of God's Word?