

5 Reasons to Make Church a Weekly Commitment

People have many reasons for skipping church as a weekly commitment. Writer Lisa Appelo offers a few. She writes,

Maybe you're a college student, raised up in the church and launched with much prayer. Student life is so erratic, and the weekends are so filled that you just haven't plugged into a church body. Maybe you're a young couple busy kindling careers. You have personal devotions, but Sundays have become time to catch up on sleep or get together with friends. Maybe you have a busy family with multiple kids in multiple sports — elite leagues that require traveling every weekend and commitments for Sunday games and practices. Perhaps you're an empty nester, and now that the kids are gone, you just don't feel the same compelling need to be in church or serve in church, and little by little, you've stepped away from church altogether.

Or maybe, you don't like the church. Someone at church hurt you deeply. Someone offended you — maybe someone in leadership who should have known better — and so you've decided you'll keep Jesus but reject the church.

Is church necessary for the Christian? I want to share 5 reasons you can't do without church:

1. **You miss out on how God has chosen to work in this age.** The church is not an invention of men like the Elks club or the Red Cross. God created the church and has specifically tasked it to carry out His work until Christ returns (Acts 1:2). It provides fellowship, worship, disciple-making, service, Communion, baptism, and more. It is a gift from God in this age.
2. **You miss out on using your spiritual gifts.** Every believer has a "gift mix." Gifts include teaching, giving, serving, evangelism, mercy, exhortation and hospitality. Our spiritual gifts are intended to benefit others (not us!) If we are not plugged into the church, the benefit of our spiritual gifts is not shared with others (1 Corinthians 14:26; Ephesians 4:12).
3. **You miss out on spiritual gifts meant for you.** If you're not in a church, not only is the body missing out on your spiritual gifts, but you are missing out on the body's spiritual gifts intended for you—to build you into a strong and mature believer.
4. **You miss out on accountability.** God calls believers to be holy. Can we do this on our own? Maybe. Yet, frequent fellowship and intentional worship with others realigns us with Scripture. It provides accountability in a world that shuns accountability.
5. **You miss out on the sweetest fellowship this side of heaven.** Five years ago, I became a widow and single mom to our seven children. Over the next months, it was the church who ministered to my children, cleaned the house, helped with cars, and prayed with us.

Why the church? We are meant to walk this Christian life together. I know churches can hurt. I know they can offend. I'm deeply sorry for that. Yet, countless churches across the globe are the authentic body of Christ — imperfectly and yet gloriously bearing Christ's image.

Adapted with permission from "5 Reasons You Need to Make Church a Weekly Commitment," by Lisa Appelo, 15 Dec. 2020, for Crosswalk.com (<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/5-reasons-you-need-to-make-church-a-weekly-commitment.html>).

Today's Message: The Danger of Starting Well

Acts 18:18-19 Revelation 2:1-7

July 20, 2025

Speaker: Bryce Raan, FBC Deacon

I. The Birth and Life of Ephesus

- a. Formed by Spiritual Giants.
- b. Righteous beginnings
- c. Fruits of Ephesus

II. 40 Years later

- a. Jesus first gives accolades (V1-3)
- b. Accusation (V4)
- c. How to overcome (V5-7)

III. Application

- a. Where has my love fallen short?
- b. What made loving God so easy in the beginning?