

Parenting Tools:

Finding Their Place in the Church



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Parenting Tools:

*How do I help my son/daughter
find a place in the Church?*

You have seen the discouraging stats of our teenagers leaving the church in droves. In most cases, these teens will never return again. One of the main reasons for this mass exodus is that young people no longer value the church, likely because they either abdicated or never found and fulfilled their place in it. By helping your children find their place in the church, you can help them value it and hopefully stay connected for years to come.

The Scripture repeatedly teaches the importance of its members. The tasks set before the church is not to be performed by the few, but by the masses. Your child, regardless of age, has been specially gifted to fulfill a specific role within the church.

Before we share some ways to help your children find their place, consider the following foundational truths to help build a case for your child finding and fulfilling his or her place in the church.

Every member of the church is uniquely gifted

1 Corinthians 12:4–6 & 1 Peter 4:10-11

When Jesus Christ comes into a person's life as Lord and Savior, that person begins the journey of sanctification, or becoming like Jesus. The old is gone and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Think back to when your child gave his or her life to Jesus. Instantaneously, your child was gifted with the Helper—the Holy Spirit. Through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, believers realize their unique giftedness. Some are prophetic, others are

phenomenal teachers, and others show mercy without hesitation. Spiritual gifts are not based on physical or mental ability, but on the Creator's plan and the Holy Spirit's power. Instill in your children the reality that God has uniquely gifted them. Their passions are not their own but have been placed there for a reason beyond self-gratification.

There is a place for everyone in the church

Corinthians 12:14–27

Not only is every member of the church uniquely gifted, but everyone has a place within the church to use those gifts. A church with a bunch of eyes may be able to see everything, but if it does not have any hands, it is not equipped to handle what it sees. Some are gifted to become hands and others to become feet. If your child has realized his or her gifts, be ready for God to reveal the place to put those gifts to work. Your child's place may change as his or her passions progress and new gifts are developed, but he or she will always have a place in the church.

There is a purpose for everyone in the church

Ephesians 4:12

God is not focused on busy work just to keep us from sinning or turning away from Him. He is a God of purpose. Our purpose is not just to fill a number on a stat sheet or give a tithe to help maintain ministry efforts. The Scripture teaches that the work of the ministry is to be done by the church, not just a select few of the church or the staff. You and your child's purposes in the church are to do the ministry and build up the body of Christ! It's one thing to realize your gifts, and it's another thing to acknowledge your place. Purpose is where your gifts and your place meet.

So, what are some practical tips for helping your children find their places?

1. Model service in the church

Are you currently filling your place in the church? Have you shared with your child how you have arrived at your current place? Share with your child what is most fulfilling.

2. Take a passions/abilities assessment

Check out some of the resources available from PLACE Ministries.

3. Take a spiritual gifts assessment

Check out some of the resources available from PLACE Ministries.

4. Know the places of ministry in the church

Your church is in constant need of members of the body to step up and take their place. If you are unaware of open ministry opportunities, contact the church staff.

5. Experiment

Encourage your child to experiment in a couple of different ministry areas. All of the assessments mentioned earlier are great tools, but sometimes they come up a little short. It may be that your child needs to experiment in a couple of different ministries to see where they might fit. Do not be afraid to experiment. Be sure to let the appropriate staff member or leader know your child's intention up front.