

*Parenting Tools:*

## **My Child's Friends Go To Another Church**



**HOME**  
22.6

## **Parenting Tools:**

*What if my child wants to attend another church  
with His or Her friends?*

**My parents go to Rector First but I'd like to go with my friends to another church?**

If your child wants to attend another church with his or her friends, here are several questions and ideas to keep in mind:

### **1. How do the teachings of the other church compare to my church?**

Is the other church aligned with what my church believes and teaches? Are there differences in the major foundational beliefs (doctrine of trinity, of Christ, salvation, etc.)? Are there differences in some of the minor beliefs (the Lord's supper, baptism, church structure)? As a parent, are you able to explain or defend both the major and the minor beliefs?

### **2. God is the head of the church at large; he is also the head of the local church.**

Ephesians 5:22–23 depicts marriage between a man and women as a picture of the church. The idea that a husband is to be the head of his wife is rooted in the truth that “Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.” When Paul mentions the church here, he is not referring to a local church, but the church at large.

Interestingly, Christ is also seen as the head of a local church. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul addresses a local congregation who is sinning in their use of spiritual gifts. They are arrogantly claiming that one spiritual gift is more significant than another. Paul corrects their misunderstanding by use of an analogy of the body. “For as the

body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ...Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.” Paul’s use of the term “body of Christ” is in reference to a local church. The implication for us is that God is the Lord of not just our church but also other local Bible-believing churches. God is working not just in Immanuel Baptist Church but in other local congregations as well.

### **3. Bible-believing churches should not compete against one another, but rather they should complement one another.**

In 2 Corinthians 8:1–5, Paul is commending what the Macedonian churches were doing in order to complement other local churches. Using the example of the Macedonian churches, Paul hopes to spur on the Corinthian church to give a financial offering. He says, “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.” 2 Corinthians 9:2 continues the same line of thought, “For I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority.”

Here is an important conclusion: if your child is being spurred on by another local church then it is not wrong, but rather a good thing.

### **4. Understand that going to church entails giving in addition to receiving.**

Each member has a significant role for service in his or her local church. As stated earlier in 1 Corinthians 12, Christ is the head of

each local Bible-believing church. As each local church is like a body with different member parts, so, too, your child is a member or part of Immanuel Baptist Church. Being a member of Immanuel is not just about receiving but also about serving in Immanuel. As a parent, you do your child and church a favor by emphasizing to them that they have a significant place of service at Immanuel, if they attend the church. 1Corinthians 12:14–15, 21–22 explains, “For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? And the eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’; nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.”

### **5. If your child is a member of Rector First, is your child fulfilling his/her member roles?**

Our church’s biblical mission is to “be and build committed, reproducing followers of Jesus Christ, who worship, connect, grow, and go.” Sharing Jesus, Sharing Life.

Within this mission statement, the dual ideas of receiving and giving are present—we are to be disciplined and we are to build disciples. It is unprofitable for Rector First.

Sharing Jesus Sharing Life