

## *Parenting Tools:*

### **- Why Is Going to Church Important -**



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### *Why Is Going to Church Important*

The Bible commands us to go to church, and—even more—to be a functioning part of it. Hebrews 10:24–25 says, “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” The New Living Translation puts it this way: “Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.” Notice that the Bible does not say, “Don’t forsake the assembling of yourselves together unless Sunday is your only day off, or unless you want to run in a triathlon, or unless it’s a great day to go to the lake, in which case you are excused because you just don’t need fellowship as much as other Christians do.”

Some people have had bad experiences at church, but that is not a reason not to attend church. The church has its flaws because people are in it, and we are all flawed. That’s why we need Jesus in the first place! Jesus both started and loves the church. He died for it. We should forgive and find a church body where we can worship and serve God. It’s not about us.

Being in fellowship with others is God’s design for His people. It says in 1 John 3:14, “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death” (NIV). Psalm 133:1 says, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (NKJV). Not

going to church is a spiritual problem, not a time problem. We read in 1 John 2:19, “These people left our churches because they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left us, it proved that they do not belong with us” (NLT).

Studies show that if you don’t go to church for a month, the odds are almost 2 to 1 that you won’t go for more than a year. Being a vital and active part of the church is something we pass on to our kids. A study once disclosed that if both Mom and Dad attend church regularly, 72 percent of their children remain faithful in attendance; if only Dad attends regularly, 55 percent remain faithful; if only Mom attends regularly, 15 percent remain faithful; and if neither attend regularly, only 6 percent remain faithful.

Therefore, it is very important for us to make church attendance a priority, not because God is up there taking roll, but because it’s our heart’s desire to worship our Father, grow in the knowledge of His Word, and connect with others in Christian fellowship.