

HOW TO ATTEND YOUR CHURCH.

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Believers love God and love the people of God. True Christians take great joy in worshiping together with the saints. But, *how* should you attend your church? What should mark your deliberateness in attending corporate worship? Perhaps we would do well to take a step back, ponder deeply and think about six descriptions on *how* you should attend church.

1. regularly

Attend your church *regularly*. This may seem obvious but in our extraordinary-busy, priority-confused culture we do well to hear the simple call from God to not forsake the assembling together with the saints. It does the Christian much good to gather often and sit under and hear divine truth proclaimed in the local church. Christians love and long for the regular occasions to meet with God and with His people and to fellowship, to worship, to engage, and to serve one another.

2. hungrily

Attend your church *hungrily*. When you're hungry, you eat. When you're really hungry, sometimes all you think about is food. How much more should this be true of the believer. We should attend worship with the saints with a great appetite. We should attend hungry to hear from the Lord. We should go eager to feast upon His Word. We should go longing to fill our mind and heart with the glories of Christ. Prepare and plan and attend your church hungry to receive God's glorious Word.

3. preparedly

Attend your church *preparedly*. You're thankful when a pilot comes to work and he's prepared, studied, and able to fly your plane! If this is true of a pilot, how much more should the people of God prepare themselves to minister before the Lord and with His people as prepared as possible. This demands preparation in prayer and preparation in Bible reading. It calls for preparation in leaving the home early enough and arriving early. It beckons you to pray for visitors, for your church family, for your preacher, and for the power of the Word to thunder forth with divine power! Attend your church prepared and ready to meet with the living God!

4. prayerfully

Attend your church *prayerfully*. O how common this is thought of but how uncommon this is practiced! Every Christian *knows* that it's important to pray. But attend your church prayerfully and deliberately with an attitude and a proactive mindset to serve those whom God brings your way. Pray ahead of time for your fellow church members. Pray for your elders. Pray for your children in the church. Pray for the lost. Pray for the visitors. Pray for the struggling and suffering. Pray for the discouraged and distressed. Pray for the rebellious and profane. And go in a spirit of prayer asking the Lord to help you to *go and serve, meet and greet, and encourage and edify*.

5. unifyingly

Attend your church *unifyingly*. Interestingly, when you gather with like-minded believers you are confessing -- *together!* -- the same gospel truths and Christian doctrines. When you stand with your congregation and sing gospel-drenched songs pointing to Christ's gospel, the character and essence of God, the duty for holiness, and the love for the Church, you are uniting and confessing together these truths in lyrical form. When you stand and read the Word corporately, you are affirming with like-minded folks the authority of Scripture. When you hear the Word preached and resolve to submit to it, obey it, follow it, and cherish it, you are uniting together with believers around the same truths of the gospel. This produces joy and unity!

6. purposefully

Attend your church *purposefully*. What would happen if your church was comprised of 75 believers who all attended with a purpose to *serve*, to *encourage*, to *engage*, to *edify*, and to *build up* the flock of God. It's easy to go and *get*. It's easy to just sit and hear the sermon and leave quickly. But what if you had the purpose to attend your church to speak a word of encouragement to someone, to reach out to a young child and speak a bible verse to them, to thank your pastor for one specific thing he mentioned in the sermon and how it showed you more of God's glory? May the Lord graciously cause you to attend your church with great, deliberate and intentional purpose -- for His glory and for the saints' edification!