

How to Find a Church Home

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God's desire for His children is not that we go on this journey alone, but that we grow together, and edify each other. Believers are called to minister to one another, and do so by reminding each other about the Savior and the great things He has done.

Hebrews 10:23-25 teaches, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

So, how does one go about choosing a local church? Finding a church should begin with prayer and reliance upon God. Practically speaking, there are things one should look for to know if the church you are interested in is healthy and effective.

1. The first area of concern is doctrinal. What is the church teaching? There are nine doctrines of the church that are indispensable when seeking a fellowship that is teaching the truth.

The Bible

Does the church teach that the Bible is the Word of God? 2 Timothy 3:16 teaches, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness." Does the church advocate this doctrine?

The Deity of Christ

Does the church teach that Jesus Christ is not only the Son of God, but that He is God?

The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ

Does the church teach that the Holy Spirit placed Him in the womb of the Virgin Mary?

The Bodily Resurrection of Christ

Does the church teach that Jesus fully conquered death and did all He said He would do, rising on the third day after His crucifixion?

The Rapture and the Second Advent

Does the church teach that Jesus is coming again? Does this teaching properly differentiate between the Rapture of the Church and the Second Advent of Jesus Christ which precedes His millennial reign on earth?

The Judgments

Does the church teach that there is a time for each person to stand before almighty God and give an account?

Heaven and Hell

Does the church teach that Christ's judgments will result in different eternal destinations for people?

Salvation

Does the church teach that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, went to the cross and died a sacrificial, atoning death and that His sacrifice is the only avenue of salvation? Does this teaching exclude any kind of works (including water baptism), lordship, perseverance, etc. from the content of its message about salvation?

Eternal Security

Does the church teach that salvation is sealed by God the Holy Spirit at the moment of faith in Jesus Christ and that no thought or deed on the part of a born-again believer, no matter how horrendous, can result in loss of salvation?

2. The next area of concern in finding a church is examining whether or not the church is building your faith and disciplining you. Is the church strengthening your relationship with God? Is the church enabling you to understand the Scripture and teaching you scriptural principles for living? Is the church providing avenues through which you can serve?

3. The last area is discovering if the church has a ministry to the world. Is the church concerned about poverty-stricken people and people around the world who never have heard the gospel? Is it evangelistic and missions minded? Is it making an impact in its community, as well as globally?

Church attendance is essential for the growing Christian. Do not be like the lone gazelle that is caught by the ravenous lion. Increase your love for Jesus Christ and for the people of God by attending a local church. Find a church that will teach you about Christ, encourage and comfort you in difficult times, and teach you how to serve the Lord with your life.