

# “Why Should I Go To Church?”

By Red Miller

Why can't I just do devotions on my own? It's true that God values personal devotions. In fact, He even commands us to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17). Also, in Matthew 6:6-7, Jesus tells us, “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. But “going to church” is about more than personal devotion. For Christians, going to church is the gathering together of a family, or as the apostle Paul described it, uniting the members of a body. Worshiping is what Christians do.

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” (Rom. 12:4-5)

Every Christian is a member of the body of Christ, and every member has unique talents and insights. Sharing these gifts with each other as a unified body strengthens us in our common task of glorifying God. In worship we experience the joy of true community with God's family.

## 1. Fellowship.

Regular church attendance allows a Christian to become part of a church family—a community of brothers and sisters in Christ who share true concern for one another. Paul described this kind of fellowship in his letter to the Corinthians: “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together” (1 Cor. 12:26). When we care for our fellow Christians in this way, not only do we enjoy the security of belonging to a spiritual family, but we glorify God by revealing His character to the world.

## 2. Corporate Worship.

Christ, in the darkest hours of His life, asked three of His closest friends to “watch and pray” with Him (Matt. 26:41). While private devotion pleases God, at times nothing will do except to join with fellow Christians in praise of our great God. Jesus promised: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matt. 18:20). God is glorified when Christians speak of His greatness with each other, and He is pleased to be in our midst.

## 3. Personal Growth.

Just as individual Bible study and prayer are vital to a Christian's spiritual growth, so is consistent contact with other Christians. God commands us to “consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together . . .” (Heb. 10:24-25). Meeting regularly with other Christians is an opportunity to be encouraged in our daily walk with Christ, to receive godly advice in areas of difficulty in our life, and to be challenged by the example of more mature Christians.

## 4. Ministry.

Paul tells us that God gave “pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:11-12). Attending church allows us to receive the instruction of trained pastors and teachers, helping us minister both to the world and within the Church. Along with communicating the gospel to the unsaved through actions and words, Christians have a responsibility to minister to other members of the body of Christ: “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up . . .” (1 Thess. 5:11). Being in regular contact with other Christians in church gives you numerous opportunities to offer a word of encouragement, a listening ear, a helping hand, or to receive these things in your moment of need.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philip. 1:4/