

WHEN YOU DON'T GO TO CHURCH

Hebrews 10:23-25

Introduction: A pastor who pastored for over 40 years which included over a dozen churches ranging in size from small country churches to large city churches with memberships ranging from less than a hundred to several thousand did a study through the years of those churches' average Sunday morning attendance compared to the church's total membership and found that on any given Sunday an average of 25% of the church's membership was in attendance. Where were the other 75%? How many Christians have ever given thought to the consequences of their not attending services faithfully? Think about it Christian:

I. YOUR NOT ATTENDING IS A MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN TO GOD

1. *Luke 15:4* is the story Jesus told of a shepherd leaving 99 sheep to go look for a single missing sheep than had wandered away from the others.
2. God is very concerned about His children and wants fellowship with them and for them to have fellowship with one another.
3. For a Christian to not attend worship regularly is to cause God to become concerned. It should also cause concern to that Christian's church family.

II. NOT ATTENDING DEPRIVES YOU OF SPIRITUAL HEALTH

1. Failing to worship God shrivels the soul.
2. The body needs proper nourishment or it will become sick and eventually die.
3. The soul also needs nourishment which is found in worship and fellowship with other Christians.

III. YOUR TALENTS, GIFTS, ABILITIES ARE BEING WASTED

1. *Matthew 25:14-15*
2. Every Christian can do something as God has given the gift and the opportunity to do something.
3. Ever think what the world (or your town) would be like if every Christian was faithful in worship attendance and did what God had equipped and wanted him/her to do?
4. When a single Christian fails to do what God has equipped him/her to do everyone in the church suffers? Especially the Lord?
5. Christian, you are needed every Lord's Day in God's House.

IV. YOU ARE LETTING YOUR INFLUENCE WORK AGAINST GOD AND HIS CHURCH

1. Unintentionally, the Christian's absence tells all who see that it's alright not to go to worship and church services. It's alright to be unfaithful to God.
2. The absent Christian is setting a very tragic example to all who see him/her not in worship on the Lord's Day, especially those who don't know the Lord as Savior. Ever think of that?

V. OTHER CHRISTIANS NEED YOU AND YOU NEED THEM

1. A story of long ago has been told many times about a Christian who had quit attending worship services. The pastor visited the man and never said a word. The man invited the pastor in they sat beside the fireplace in silence. The pastor took a stick and pulled a glowing ember away from the rest of the flames and slowly the once glowing ember began to lose it's glow until the once red glow faded completely away. The man looked up at the visiting pastor and said, "I'll be in church Sunday, pastor." He saw that without his church family around him, he was weakening and at the same time his church family needed him to help do what God wanted the church to do.
2. Every Christian needs what his/her church family can give.
3. The church family needs what you, the Christian has that God has given you.
4. Christian, your absence deprives your church family.

CONCLUSION:

1. Ask any Christian about his/her absence and the reply will be that "I'll be back..."
2. Christian, you are important to your church family whether you know it or not.
3. Christian, do you think God wants you to be in worship on the Lord's Day?
4. You are a Christian aren't you?