

Things to Be Mindful of During Our Worship Service and for Visitors

by Johnny Oxendine San Mateo, CA via The Beacon Bellview church of Christ Pensacola, FL

It does not really surprise me anymore to hear a phone ring during a Sunday morning class or even worship service. But I will admit to being shocked when I heard a ringtone once while I was preaching—and someone pulled their telephone out and began a lengthy conversation in the back of the auditorium as if they were on a street corner waiting for Uber.

That incident (among others) prompted me to think about what constituted rudeness during the worship service. You probably can think of an avalanche of pent-up frustrations you have had about crinkly candy wrappers, smelly feet (yes, some people see nothing wrong with taking off their shoes during the service), unruly children, coffee-sippers, and no doubt more.

Here then are some of the rudest things people do in church, perhaps without consideration of the fact that we often have visitors among us:

1. Constantly talking (and whispering) during a service.
2. Testing or surfing the web during a service. (One person has mentioned seeing people playing video games on their phones.)
3. Sleeping—or snoring!—during a sermon (yes, we have even had that).
4. Clipping fingernails or toenails during worship.
5. Answering a ringing phone in church.
6. Constantly getting up and leaving the auditorium, presumably to use the restroom.
7. Walking out of a service early, especially during a prayer or invitation.
8. Letting babies cry incessantly in the service.
9. Chewing or smacking gum. (One person said they were particularly annoyed when people “chew gum like a goat,” and I am really expecting someone to blow a bubble soon.)
10. Overly public displays of affection. (One person complained about a couple, who may not even have been married, giving each other back rubs during worship.)

God does not like it when people refuse to focus their attention when He is talking. He has called us to listen (to His Word). Moses told the Hebrews they would be blessed if they listened to God’s commandments (Deu. 11:27—NASB). Solomon said that when we come to God’s house we should “draw near to listen [“be more ready to hear”] rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools” (Ecc. 5:1).

Isaiah said that God awakened him “to listen as a disciple” (Isa. 50:4), while Jeremiah rebuked Israel because they “did not listen or incline their ears” (Jer. 17:23). It is hard to imagine anyone thinking that we can please God or be His faithful followers if we do not learn to listen in the worship service.

Everyone realizes that today we live in a distracted culture. We can be adequately described as sleep-deprived multitaskers. People surf the web while watching television; some people still attempt to text while driving; we tweet while we work; we take calls when we are meeting friends and having dinner. What, exactly, are we teaching our children?

Some people even crash into each other (or fall into fountains in shopping malls) while walking because they are too busy Googling (or texting) to see another distracted Googler (texter) headed straight toward them.

People are so focused on everything that they cannot focus on anything. I sometimes wonder if the proliferation of fast food, sugary drinks, movies on demand, “smart” phones, and 24-hour news is not rewiring our brains so we cannot focus on what is really important. We are turning ourselves into media zombies (Romero movies?).

I (of all people) am not bashing technology. But could we lose the art of discipleship if we do not reclaim the habit of careful (actual) listening. That means when we come to the church building, especially, we should not just turn off our phones but also tune out (and put away) all other distractions so we can focus on what God is saying to us—through the preacher, the worship songs, the communion, and the prayers.

Let us not be rude to God. Do not just go to church. Sit up and hear/listen to the Word of the Lord. Do not talk, text, sleep, chew gum, drink coffee, or take calls when He is speaking. Listen as if your life depended on it, because your soul surely does.

NEWSLETTER

April 17, 2022

Mark Dailey, evangelist
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Schedule of Services

Our current schedule is:
Sunday AM Worship 11:00 AM

La Salle
church of Christ
A place of worship and healing.

1121 N. Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
(716) 283-1214

lasallechurchofchrist.org



We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you). We would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in one of the receptacles provided at the front and rear of the auditorium. There will be an opportunity to give but as a visitor it is not expected of you. Thanks.



There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs if you need to care for your infant.



Read God’s Word

We offer a **free Bible Correspondence Course**

Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent. Thank you.

Friendly Reminder - BLUE LIGHT

When the “blue light” is lit at the front of the auditorium before service begins it means “Quiet Please”

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Prayers *In our prayers, let's praise God, recognize His greatness, thank Him for His Son and His blessings.*

Please pray as we continue our search for a gospel preacher.

Let's pray for the situation in the Ukraine and surrounding areas.

Let's pray for Christians in both the Ukraine and Russia.

Let's keep in our prayers Barbara Oliver, Marjorie Reed, Louella Hopkins, and Bill & Kris Kinney.

Frank Marsden was recently to the hospital suffering with a possible heart attack. He underwent tests. They fixed one small blockage and there was no damage to his heart.

Anna Brink is undergoing cancer treatments.

Diane Mellott is dealing with severe arthritis in her right hip causing her difficulty walking. She is facing surgery in the future and is scheduled to see her doctor this month.

Samantha Mellott is struggling with diabetes.

Darlene Reed Results of tests concerning losing her balance: She has a circulatory problem in her ear and there is nothing they can do. She had hip replacement surgery Wed. Mar. 23 and is recuperating.

Glen Mueller Glen is in Jennie B. Richmond Nursing Home in Springville, NY, (Located in Bertrand Chaffe Hospital). Let's continue to pray for him and his family. Let's also pray for the Sardinia church of Christ.

Sharon Alcorn, Jessica Alcorn's sister-in-law, has recently been diagnosed with brain cancer. It was announced last week that she is terminal.

Marietta McArthur (Ray McArthur's mother) is dealing with health issues.

Janine Galuppo, Ray McArthur's sister near Syracuse, is dealing with multiple health issues.

Dale Mullholland, brother of Denise Garlitz & Darlene Reed, is homebound with severe arthritis in his back and legs. He is 62.

Sharron Gantt Lab results of the bladder tumors removed showed it was an aggressive kind of cancer. She will have 6 weeks of immunotherapy - one a week for 6 weeks. Let's pray all goes well.

Vincent, Susan Barrett's son in Ohio, is dealing with legal issues concerning custody of a child and is also dealing with health issues.

Douglas (Frank Marsden's grandson) He is in the Army Reserves and was activated and sent to Poland.

Fran, Frank Marsden's sister, was readmitted to the hospital and undergoing tests.

Lynn, a friend of Denise Garlitz, lost her husband Steve recently.

Jack Curnew is dealing with eye issues.

Bruce Brink's aunt is having vision problems after having cataract surgery.

Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

Apr. 17 Today. Easter Holiday

Apr. 24 Men's Business Meeting

May 08 Mother's Day

May 14 Ladie's Day at Amherst church of Christ
Please see posting.

Weekly Budget Amount	\$1,843.00
Contribution Last Sunday	\$751.00
Attendance Last Sunday	35

Financial Reports and Meeting Minutes are posted in the back.



Bible Class News: If things continue to improve regarding COVID restrictions, we will begin Sunday morning classes on May 1st. Brother Wayne Lyons will be teaching our class on Sunday morning. It has been a long time since we have been together for Bible Study and it is IMPORTANT for all of us to make a commitment to study and grow. See you there!

It's been previously decided that when classes resume they will be from 10 AM to 10:45 AM and worship will begin at 11 AM.

Children's Bible Classes: We are in need of teachers for our children's classes on Sunday. According to our policies we must have two teachers per classroom and anyone teaching will have to undergo a background check. The background check is a simple form and there is no cost to you. See Mark if you are able to become involved. *Currently we have no teachers for our children's classes.*



The mask mandate has been lifted, but it is still recommended we all wear a mask. Thanks

Please check the “Mission Board” in the back of the auditorium.

Widows & Widowers

Please remember our widows and widowers in cards, calls, and helpful service. **James 1:27**