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The Pastor's Corner Vol. 4

April, 2009

The Importance of Attending Church



*.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith
that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV*

The Importance of Attending Church

There are many that profess faith in Jesus Christ and declare him both Savior and Lord, yet they refuse to attend church on a regular basis. You hear many of them say, “I don’t need to go to church to be a Christian.” Still others say, “I read my bible and lead a clean life so I don’t need to go to church.” The list of excuses people give for not attending church is far too lengthy to put into one article. I’ve always said, excuses are like belly buttons, everybody has one. However, it is true that going to church does not make us Christians any more than going to McDonald’s makes us a hamburger. According to the bible, salvation is the gift of God and is not based on our works (which includes going to church) lest we should boast that we’ve earned our salvation through a system of works. Simply put, we are saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, we need not add anything to Jesus’ finished work on the cross. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) says, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” However, for me, it’s pretty difficult to believe a true Christian would refuse to attend church on a regular basis. To the Christian, the church is his/her extended family, and like with our biological family, we sometimes disagree but we should never divide with our church family by not attending church. The fact of the matter is the writer of Hebrews clearly tells us we should not give up going to church. Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) says, “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the day approaching.”

So why is it important for us to regularly attend a healthy well-balanced church? Here are just a few reasons to consider:

1. For Preparation of Works of Service

It is through regular attendance in a healthy well-balanced church that we are prepared for works of service. Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV) says, “it was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ, may be built up.” Preparation for service requires two-way conversation and hands-on training, this cannot be achieved by watching T.V. preachers or listening to the radio preachers, you must attend a healthy well-balanced church.

2. To Use/Apply Your Spiritual Gift(s)

I believe every born again believer has at least one (1) spiritual gift. These gifts are different from our natural talents and are given by the Spirit of God for the edifying of the body of Christ, the church. 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) says, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” Our spiritual gift(s) are not given to us for use on the golf course, at the ball game, at the laundry or wherever else we may choose to be on Sunday mornings instead of being in church. God designed our gifts for the edifying of the body of Christ, which is the church.

3. The Lord’s Supper (Communion)

Every believer, to commemorate the death and suffering of our Lord and Savior, should partake of the Lord’s supper with the family of God, the church (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

4. Accountability

It has been said that “a life without accountability is a life in danger, especially for the Christian.” Accountability may be defined as a check and balance system we allow to protect us from spiritual and physical harm. When we are accountable to a healthy well-balanced church, it means we willingly allow the pastor(s) and/or leadership of the church to monitor our attendance, our spiritual growth, our life style as it relates to our biological family and our church family, our stewardship as it relates to our time, gifting and giving and our overall relationship with the Lord. When we allow ourselves to be accountable to a healthy well-balanced church (this is key), we usually see growth spiritually, our marriages are usually less complicated, all our relationships improve and we find ourselves more usable for the things of God. Failure to be accountable to a healthy well-balanced church usually stunts the growth of the Christian. Even worse, some Christians have turned their back on God while others became members of cults or cultic ministries that destroy their lives, all because they refused to be accountable to those that love them.

God Bless,
Pastor D. M. Duncan

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