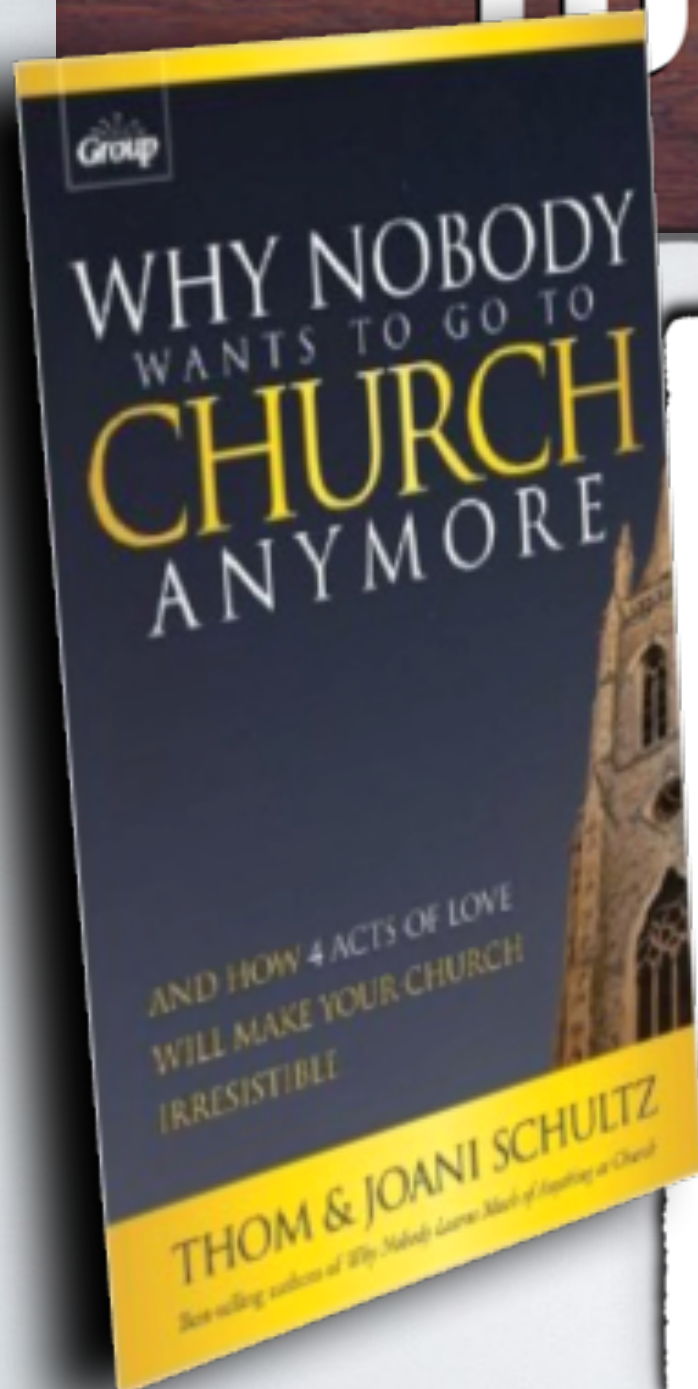


WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

PSALMS 122:1 (NKJV)

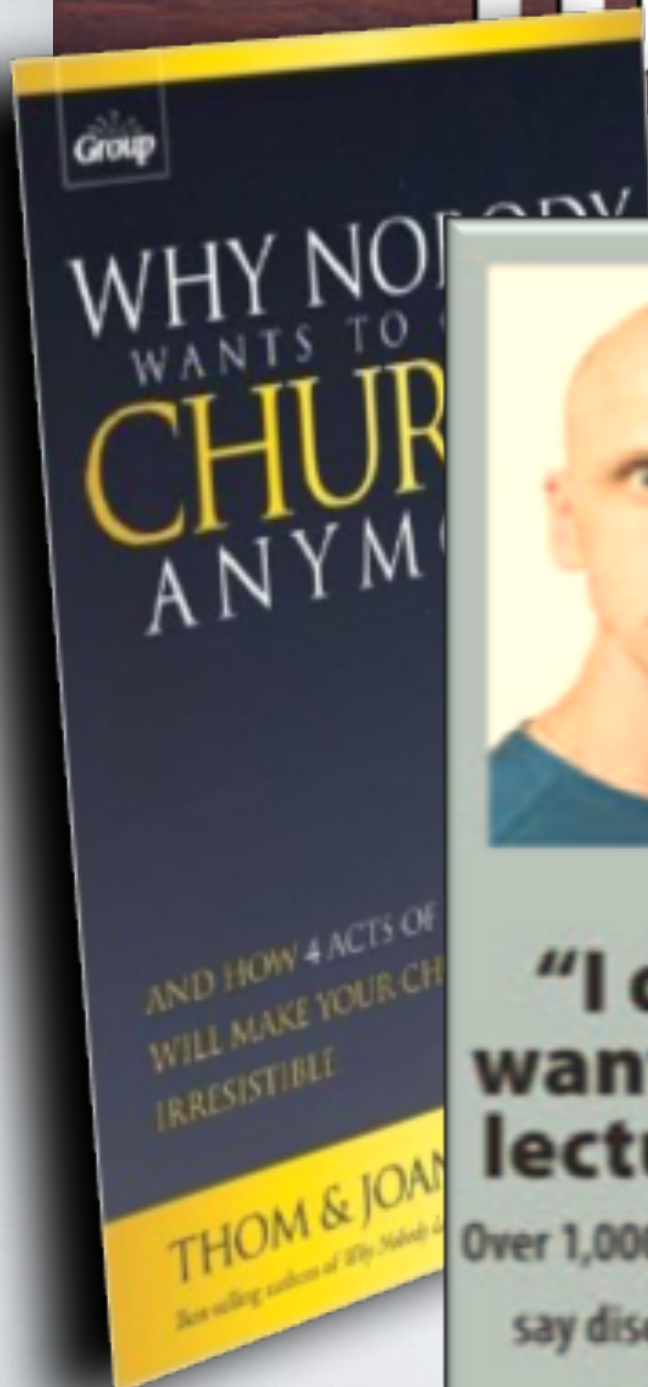
¹ A song of Ascents. Of David. I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."

why NOBODY WANTS TO GO TO CHURCH anymore



According to a study by the Hartford Institute of Religion Research and a new book entitled, “Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore,” less than 20% of Americans attend worship services every week. They say there are four main reasons why people don’t want to “go to church.”

why NOBODY WANTS TO GO TO CHURCH anymore



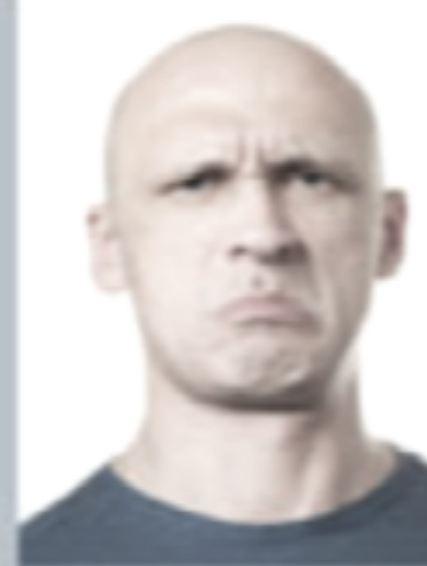
**"I don't
want to be
lectured."**

Over 1,000 interviewees
say discussions are
one-way.



**"I feel
judged."**

87% describe Christians
as judgmental.



**"Church
people are
hypocrites."**

85% say Christians try to
tell others what to do.

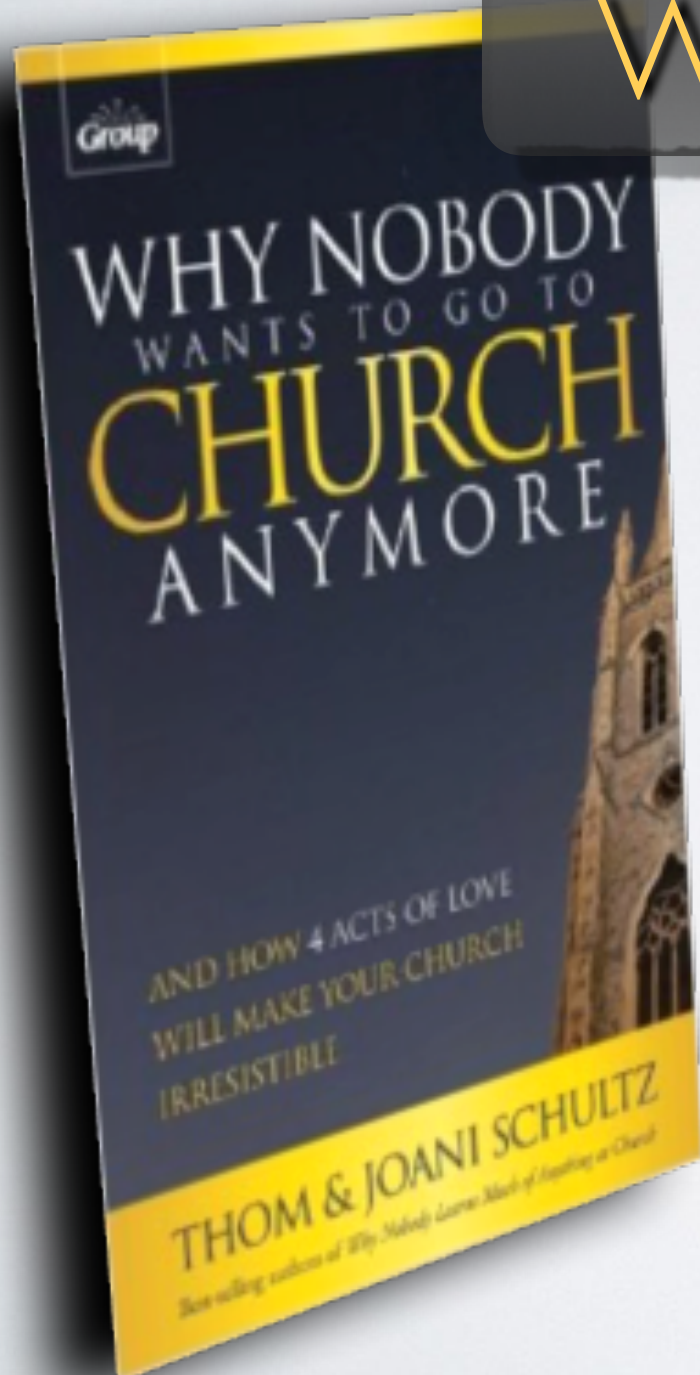


**"God is
irrelevant
in my life."**

56% say they don't
experience God
at church.

why NOBODY WANTS TO GO TO CHURCH anymore

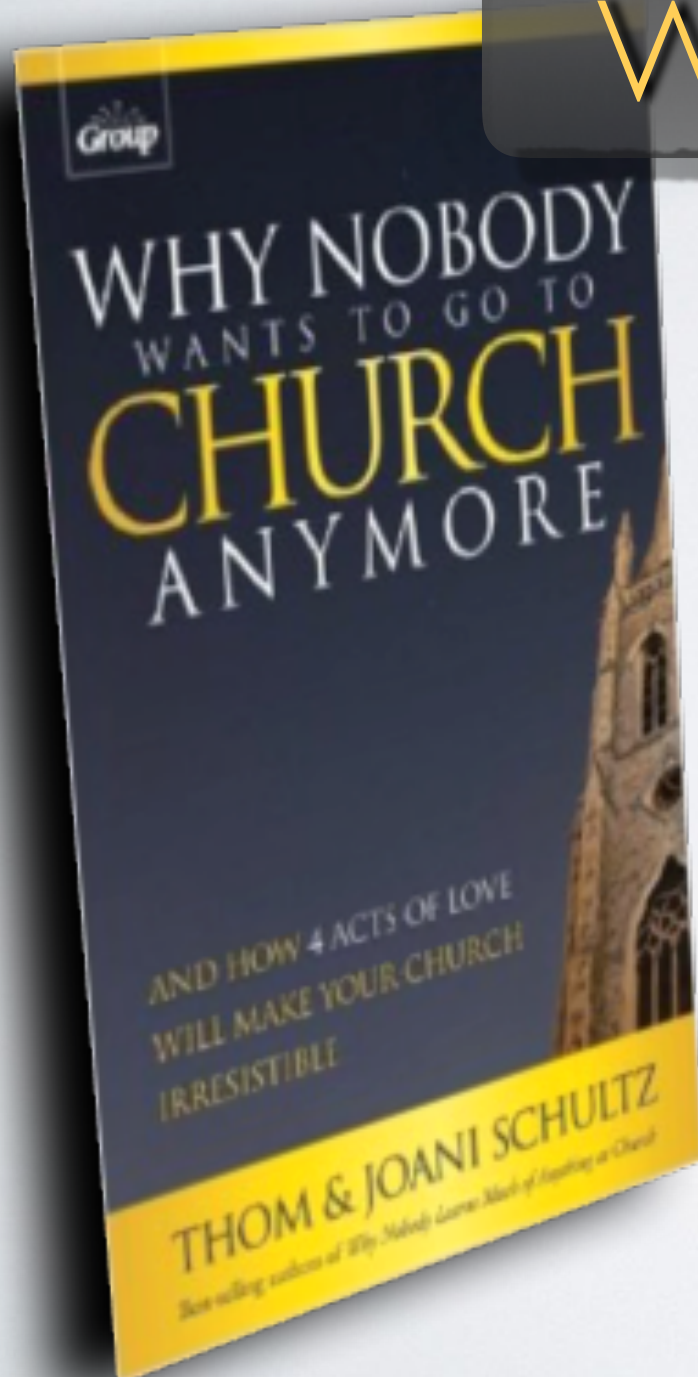
What These “REASONS” Reveal



- Many lack knowledge & understanding of what the church is and what the Lord's will is. - Acts 2:47; 4:23-37; 10:24-33; 20:7; John 4:24; 1 Cor 11:17-34; 14:26-40 ...
- Many are disheartened, confused, dissatisfied & “turned off” by the current division, confusion & unbiblical teachings found in many churches - John 17:20-23; 1 Cor 4:16; 14:23; James 3:13-16 ...

why **NOBODY WANTS TO GO TO CHURCH** anymore

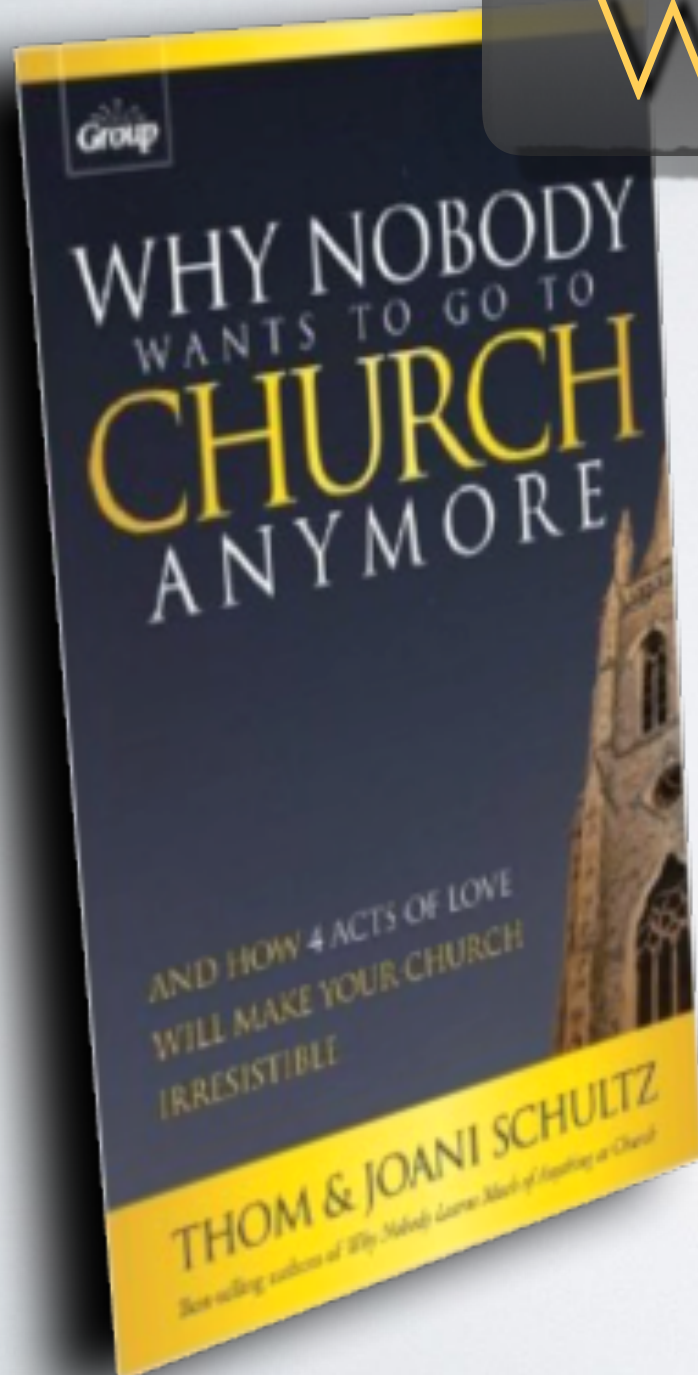
What These “REASONS” Reveal



- Some do not have a love for the truth - 2 Thes 2:10-12; 2 Tim 4:3,4
- Some glorify human wisdom, including their own opinions & beliefs & do not want them questioned or challenged - Rom 1:21-23
- Some have a higher regard for worldly things and pleasures than spiritual things - 1 Jn 2:15-17; James 4:4; Rom 1:24-32

why NOBODY WANTS TO GO TO CHURCH anymore

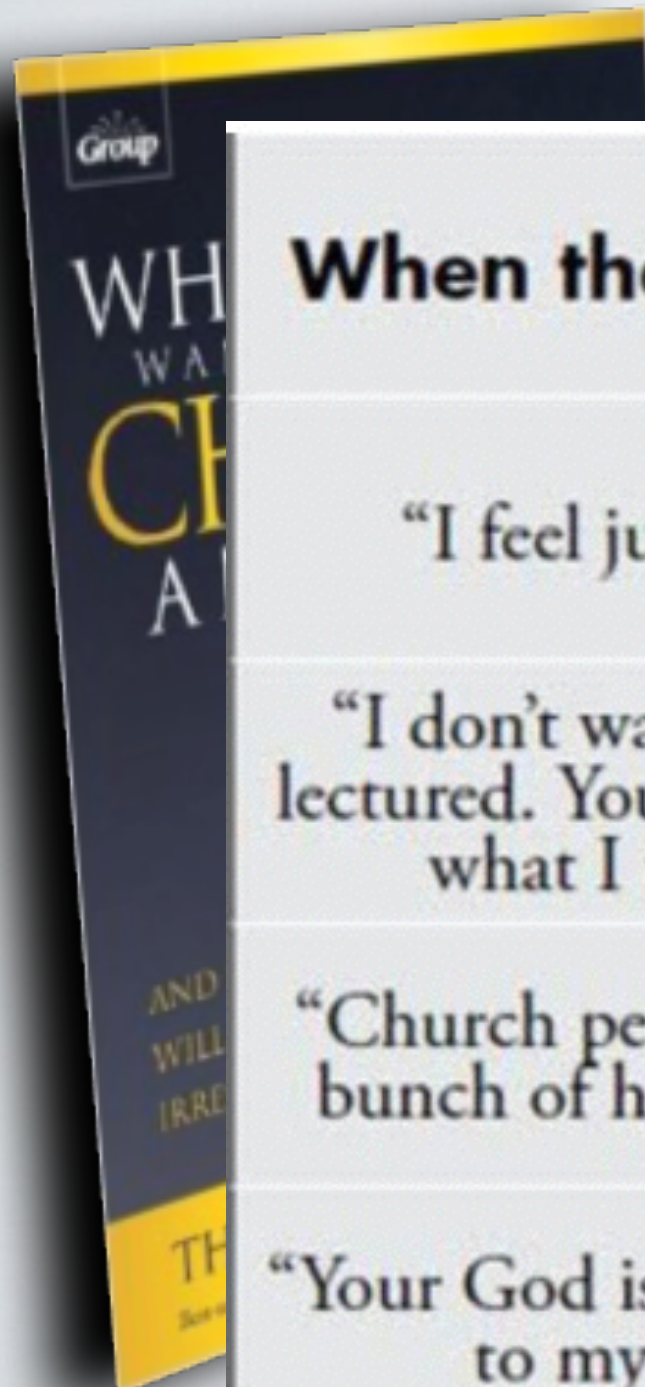
What These “REASONS” Reveal



- Some people are confused
- Some people are deceived
- Some people love the world
- Some people are selfish & proud
- Some people are stubborn & hard-hearted
- Some people can be persuaded to change their minds & actions - Acts 2:36,37
- Some people cannot be changed because they will not hear God - Act 7:51-54; John 5:42-47; Mat 13:14,15

why **NOBODY WANTS TO GO TO CHURCH** anymore

The Authors Suggested Solution ...



When they say...	Imagine Jesus saying...	The church practices...
"I feel judged."	"You're welcome just as you are."	RADICAL HOSPITALITY
"I don't want to be lectured. You don't care what I think."	"Your thoughts are welcome; your doubts are welcome."	FEARLESS CONVERSATION
"Church people are a bunch of hypocrites."	"We're all in this together."	GENUINE HUMILITY
"Your God is irrelevant to my life."	"God is here, ready to connect with you in a fresh way."	DIVINE ANTICIPATION

WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

The Lord's Suggested Solution ...

The church practices...

RADICAL
HOSPITALITY

FEARLESS
CONVERSATION

GENUINE
HUMILITY

DIVINE
ANTICIPATION

- ***“You are welcome just as you are”*** to hear the word of God - to learn what the Lord demands of you - (we are to teach sinners the truth in love) - John 8:7,11; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; Eph 4:15 ...
- ***“Your thoughts are welcome, your doubts are welcome”*** - we do need to listen to questions & even objections - but **MUST** stand upon, defend & proclaim God's word - Isaiah 55:8,9; 2 Tim 4:2 ...

WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

The Lord's Suggested Solution ...

The church practices...

RADICAL
HOSPITALITY

FEARLESS
CONVERSATION

GENUINE
HUMILITY

DIVINE
ANTICIPATION

- ***“We are all in this together”*** we MUST be humble - (Mat 5:3; Phili 2:1-10; 1 Cor. 10:12; Gal. 6:1; Rom 3:23) but true humility obeys the Lord & not the devil - Accepting, embracing & approving sinful behavior is NOT humility - 1 Cor 5:1,2; James 4:7,8
- ***“God is here, ready to connect with you in a fresh way”*** - If you have come to hear God's word & worship Him - you are expecting the right thing & have come to do the right thing - John 3:16; Acts 10:33; 17:30; Psalm 50:23; Mat 15:7-9

PSALM 122 (NKJV)

A Song of Ascents. Of David. ¹ I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord." ² Our feet have been standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem! ³ Jerusalem is built As a city that is compact together, ⁴ Where the tribes go up, The tribes of the Lord, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the Lord.

PSALM 122 (NKJV)

⁵ For thrones are set there for judgment,
The thrones of the house of David. ⁶ Pray
for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they
prosper who love you. ⁷ Peace be within
your walls, Prosperity within your
palaces.” ⁸ For the sake of my brethren
and companions, I will now say, “Peace
be within you.” ⁹ Because of the house of
the Lord our God I will seek your good.

WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

What Our Attitude Should Be

PSALM

122

(NKJV)

A Song of
Ascents. Of

David. ¹ I was
glad when they
said to me, "Let
us go into the
house of the
Lord."

- Glad to be in God's presence - to praise & worship God for Who He is & what He has done for us ...

PSALM 63:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ O God, You *are* my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. ² So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. ³ Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.

WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

What Our Attitude Should Be

PSALM

122

(NKJV)

A Song of
Ascents. Of

David. ¹ I was
glad when they
said to me, "Let
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Lord."

- Glad to be in God's presence - to praise & worship God for Who He is & what He has done for us ...

PSALM 84:2,10 (NKJV)

² My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. ...¹⁰ For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

What Our Attitude Should Be

PSALM

122

(NKJV)

A Song of
Ascents. Of

David. ¹ I was
glad when they
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house of the
Lord."

- Glad to be in God's presence - to praise & worship God for Who He is & what He has done for us ...

MARK 12:29–31 (NKJV)

²⁹ Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: '*Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.*' ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

What Our Attitude Should Be

PSALM

122

(NKJV)

A Song of
Ascents. Of

David. ¹ I was
glad when they
said to me, "Let
us go into the
house of the
Lord."

- Glad to be in God's presence - to praise & worship God for Who He is & what He has done for us ...

JOHN 4:23-24 (NKJV)

²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

To Worship God As He Has Said

PSALM 122:4
(NKJV)

⁴ Where the tribes go up,
The tribes of the Lord, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the Lord.

ACTS 2:42–46 (NKJV)

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

To Worship God As He Has Said

PSALM 122:4
(NKJV)

⁴ Where the
tribes go up,
The tribes of
the Lord, To the
Testimony of
Israel, To give
thanks to the
name of the
Lord.

Scriptural (TRUE)
worship is where the
focus is on the Creator
— NOT the creature —
(John 4:24; Romans 1:25)

WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

To Worship God As He Has Said

PSALM 122:4
(NKJV)

⁴ Where the tribes go up,
The tribes of the Lord, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the Lord.

- To observe the Lord's supper - Mat 26:26-29; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- To sing praises to God, to teach & encourage one another in song - (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
- To pray together, giving thanks & seeking God's help - (Acts 2:42,46,47; 4:24-31)
- To give of our means to support our collective work - (1 Cor 16:1,2; 2 Cor 8,9)
- To hear God's word - (2 Tim 4:2; Col. 1:28)

WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

To Edify & Encourage One Another

PSALM 122:8,9
(NKJV)

⁸ For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, “Peace *be* within you.” ⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good.

HEBREWS 10:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

To Edify & Encourage One Another

PSALM 122:8,9
(NKJV)

⁸ For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace *be* within you." ⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good.

- Consider One Another – (Heb 10:24; Rom 12:15; 15:1,2; 1 Cor 14)
- Stir Up Love & Good Works - (Heb 10:24)
- Exhorting One Another - (Heb 10:25)
- Edify One Another – (Rom. 14:19; 15:1-3; Heb. 3:12-14; Gal 6:1)
- Seeking First The Kingdom of God – (Mat 6:33; 10:37,38; Luke 14:26)

WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

We Love God & Want To Please Him

- To Worship God, To Praise God, To Glorify God, To Be Taught By God ...
- To Grow And Develop Spiritually
- To Use My Abilities / Actively Participate
- To Help Others Grow Spiritually
- To Be A Good Example & Influence
- To Be Ready, Watching And Waiting



What Is One
SAYING If He
Does NOT Want
To Assemble With
The Church?

WHY CHRISTIANS WANT TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH

Charts by Don McClain

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<http://w65stchurchofchrist.org/coc/sermons/>

ISAIAH 2:1–4 (NKJV)

¹ The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *That* the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. ³ Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob;

ISAIAH 2:1-4 (NKJV)

He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.