

WHY DO CHURCH?

Jesus: "Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." Matthew 16:18 (New Living Translation, 1996)

God designed the Church around five purposes and these purposes suggest five reasons to be involved in church.

● THE CHURCH HELPS BELIEVERS WORSHIP GOD.

... "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment."
Matthew 22:37-38 (English Standard Version)

Worship = expressing love to God

Two Principles of Worship

○ Worship continually.

... worship him continually. Psalm 105:4b (Good News Translation)

... offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Romans 12:1 (New International Version)

○ Worship intentionally.

Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. Psalm 34:3 (NIV)

Day after day they met as a group . . . ⁴⁷praising God . . . Acts 2:46-47 (GNT)

I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.
Psalm 69:30 (ESV)

● THE CHURCH GIVES BELIEVERS SUPPORT THROUGH LIFE'S JOURNEY.

We know what real love is because Christ gave up his life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters.
1 John 3:16 (NLT, 1996)

And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others. Romans 12:5b (NLT, 1996)

Lighthouse is your church, but your community is the group of people at Lighthouse with whom you are interdependent.

● THE CHURCH HELPS BELIEVERS GROW IN FAITH.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)

What Does Spiritual Growth Look Like?

○ Growth in Bible knowledge (2 Timothy 3:16)

○ Growth in Christian character (Galatians 5:22-24)

○ Growth in Christian practices (1 Thessalonians 1:3)

Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples . . .
Matthew 28:19 (GNT)

Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, . . . Hebrews 6:1 (NIV)

● THE CHURCH HELPS EACH BELIEVER FIND HIS OR HER MINISTRY.

It was he who gave some to be . . . pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up . . .
Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10 (NLT, 1996)

⁵There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. . . . ²⁷Now all of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:5, 27 (NLT, 1996)

● THE CHURCH WORKS AS A TEAM TO INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO JESUS.

But I reckon my own life to be worth nothing to me; I only want to complete my mission and finish the work that the Lord Jesus gave me to do, which is to declare the Good News about the grace of God. Acts 20:24 (GNT)

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others.
²⁰We are Christ's ambassadors . . . 2 Corinthians 5:19-20a (NLT, 1996)