

# Easy Ways To Stop Going To Church

**Introduction.** Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 11:1, “Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.” Paul’s folly is his self-praise that will follow (11:21-12:13). He knows that boasting is worthless, but the present situation demands it if his converts at Corinth are to be preserved intact for Christ.

Along the same lines, the following are six tried and tested tips to get your Sundays back for good. By themselves, these tips are not always effective. But put them together, and before you know it, you have slipped out the door and will never have to go to worship assemblies again. The best benefit is that each step is so soft and subtle that no one, not even you or your parents, will have noticed or stopped to challenge you.

## ***I. Get Really Involved In Something Else***

- A. Make sure it is something harmless like a sports team, school play, or a job. Ensure it is not obviously bad, but rather something that parents and friends may even encourage you to be doing. Who knows? Maybe skipping worship could give you an opportunity to tell others about Jesus. All this new activity will allow you to only attend occasionally, and the sermons and classes will not make sense and your brethren will never have the chance to become your finest influential friends. Eventually, you will fall away for good.
- B. One purpose in assembling is to admonish or warn each other for what lies ahead (Romans 15:14; 1 Corinthians 10:11). Another purpose is to come in God’s presence and celebrate His goodness (Psalm 5:7; 23:6; 42:4; Luke 24:52-53). When this is neglected, not only is it an insult to God, but it incrementally weakens us. This is why neglecting the assembly is forbidden (Hebrews 10:25).

## ***II. Describe Everything As Boring***

- A. Your irregularity at worship makes the sermons and classes confusing, so just call them boring. Then repeat with the songs, prayers, Lord’s Supper, and anything else that happens while you are there. Finally, whatever you do, never think it is your fault that you find it boring.
- B. Enthusiasm and desire were hallmarks of inspired people (Psalm 26:7; 66:1; 68:3). Furthermore, enthusiasm for the Lord’s work among those who are not inspired is a favorite theme in Chronicles (2 Chronicles 11:16-17; 15:15; 20:4). If a congregation has done all it can to show their reverence and enthusiasm in worship, then the problem is with the participant’s heart, not the gospel that has guided the grateful disciple.

## ***III. Do Not Serve***

- A. There are many ways you can help out in a congregation. But make sure you do not commit to teaching classes, preparing the Lord’s Supper, helping with the yard work, etc. If you served, you would probably love the place and people more, and that would undo all the good work you have done so far.
- B. As Paul so eloquently pointed out in 1 Corinthians 12:14-31, we all have a role. Each one of us makes up a part of the body. Whether you are an eye, a foot, a hand, etc., you have a role (Galatians 5:13). If you are not a working part of the body then your part of the body is dead. The body becomes deformed, and someone else has to pull your weight. There are times when a member is wounded and needs the rest of the body to help bear their burden (Galatians 6:2). However, there is no good reason for a fully capable member not to fulfill their role (Matthew 25:34-40).

#### **IV. Find A Problem With Something Or Someone**

- A. There are a lot of problems with your congregation, and being a Christian can be tough. So pick something not central to the faith and choose to find a problem with that.
  - 1. Good options to take issue with are: (1) one of the preachers; (2) the other people your age; and, (3) a comment someone made during an assembly or class that you do not like.
  - 2. Really take this problem to heart, using it to refute the rest of what Jesus is about. Hopefully you will eventually be able to drown out that voice inside asking you, “Why are you giving up church over such a minor issue?”
- B. It is super easy to pick up and quit completely or go somewhere else. But how about talking to people and working out your problems (Proverbs 25:9; Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-17)? No one has to be hypercritical, rude, mean, or nasty. We never solve life’s problems by running away. Wherever there are people, there are problems — and the potential for solving problems.

#### **V. Date A Non-Christian**

- A. Now that you are not committed to being faithful, and you have found an excuse to not really engage with the truth, this is the real winner. Find someone that is engaged in whatever you chose to do for Point 1, and start dating them. Tell yourself these important half-truths: “The Bible never says clearly not to date a non-Christian;” “I can use it as a method of evangelism;” and, “I’m sure we’ll stay pure.” With those lines in your mind you can swiftly get rid of any other Christians that show any concern.
- B. We know the power of influence (1 Corinthians 15:33; cp. Deuteronomy 13:6-8; 1 Kings 11:2). Therefore, you need to pick a mate who has spiritual goals and values. God insists that man live by principles of righteousness while the world follows the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (Acts 10:35; 1 John 2:15-16).
  - 1. The difference creates practical, moral problems when one of the mates is a Christian. What kind of leisure will the two engage in? Will he be satisfied with a wife who will not put on a bikini and go to the beach with him on vacation? What kind of television programs will he let the children watch and what kind of language will he use in front of them? Will he follow the “works of the flesh” (Galatians 5:19-21)?
  - 2. It is not just a problem of morality — it is also a problem of duties assigned by God. What about the woman who rejects the duties of subjection, motherhood, and housekeeping (Ephesians 5:22-23; 1 Timothy 5:14; Titus 2:3-4)? What about a man who does not accept his role as a husband and father to love and cherish his wife and children as his own body (Ephesians 5:28-29)?
  - 3. Dating an ungodly person is a risk, not just because of the temptation of sexual sin, but because of the vast differences between the mindset of righteousness and sin.

#### **VI. Take A Break From Church**

- A. If you had gone straight to this point, it would be really obvious that you had stopped attending. But with Points 1-6 slowly and subtly in play, it will be as easy as falling asleep in math class. Tell others that you need to find yourself before you find God — it will sound really deep and some people will understand. Promise to come back when you are in college/have a job/are married/have kids/own a house/retire. So long as you keep telling yourself you will come back later, when life is less complicated, you will never have to face up to the fact that you are no longer faithful in the Lord’s church.
- B. If procrastination often has negative results, why do people still put off being faithful (Ecclesiastes 11:4; Haggai 1:2)? Why is procrastination one of Satan’s most powerful

weapons in deterring the spread of the gospel? “Taking a break” is “looking back,” and that is wrong (Luke 9:57-62; cp. Psalm 119:60).

**Conclusion.** If you have made it all the way through the points, then you have done it! You have left the Lord without anyone noticing — not even you.

In dozens of countries around the world, Bible believers go to worship, read their Bibles, and profess their faith fully aware that these decisions might get them killed. In many cases, they convert knowing their conversion may cost them their lives. These are men and women ready to give up everything — their very existence, if necessary — for what they believe.

And what about us? With church attendance on the decline, many of us cannot be bothered to drive a few minutes to an air conditioned building to worship with our brothers and sisters for a few hours a week. And why? Because it means sacrificing a relaxing morning or evening. It means having to get up and get dressed before noon or going back out at night. It means maybe missing the first quarter of the afternoon games in the fall.

We flee from worship, and we have never even had a building blown up with 78 people inside. Our building is not being burned to the ground, but we just cannot be bothered to turn off the TV and leave the house. And if we cannot be hassled to praise the Lord at a worship assembly once a week, we certainly will not worry about standing by the more difficult and challenging aspects of our faith. While fellow Bible believers thousands of miles away are marched into the desert and massacred for believing in the scriptures, we abandon the scriptures entirely if it threatens to put a damper on our social lives.