

Questions About Attendance

Introduction. In the new year, I hope that everyone is zealous to do as much as they can for the Lord. Having said that, attendance seems to be a problem in nearly all churches, and if we want to be zealous, we need to put attendance in perspective.

Why is attendance such a problem? There are several reasons. First, some have legitimate excuses and cannot attend when they really want to. Nothing in this sermon is intended to apply to those who by reason of sickness, or other circumstances beyond their control, are not able to attend. Second, some have a denominational background where they were led to believe that attendance is not important. They need instruction. Third, some are lukewarm; they know they should attend, but lack true devotion to the Lord. Those that are able to attend but refuse to do so are the ones which we need to address in this sermon.

We are going to ask some tough questions and read important scriptures while you consider whether to stay for Bible class, be here this evening for worship, and Wednesday evening for Bible class.

- I. ***Should a Christian try to do as much as he can to please God or try to seek minimal service and avoid opportunities to do God's will?***
 - A. Titus 2:14.
 - B. 1 John 2:3-5.
 - C. Revelation 3:15-16.

- II. ***Which member will demonstrate the greatest commitment in the work and serving his brethren: the member who wants to stay home or the member who wants to attend?***
 - A. Acts 2:42.
 - B. Galatians 6:2.
 - C. Ephesians 4:16.

- III. ***Would Jesus be here as often as He could, or would He choose to stay home or do something else (vacation, camping, ball game, etc.)?***
 - A. Mark 10:1.
 - B. Luke 4:16.
 - C. John 2:16-17.

- IV. ***Are we following Christ's example if we stay home or if we attend?***
 - A. Luke 2:52.

- B. 1 Peter 2:21-22.
- C. 1 John 2:6.

V. ***Who sets the best example for new converts, weak members, and children: the member who attends or the member who does not?***

- A. Matthew 5:13-16.
- B. Matthew 18:6-7.
- C. 1 Timothy 4:12.

VI. ***Who is being a diligent parent, training children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord: the father or mother who brings their children to the assemblies, or the ones who keep them home?***

- A. Psalm 71:17-18
- B. Psalm 78:1-8.
- C. 2 Timothy 1:5.

VII. ***Are we studying the word and growing in knowledge as diligently as we should when we attend or when we refuse to attend?***

- A. Psalm 1:1-2.
- B. Proverbs 2:4-11
- C. 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

VIII. ***When a member attends fewer and fewer assemblies, is he getting better in God's service or drifting away?***

- A. Matthew 5:6.
- B. Hebrews 2:1-3.
- C. 2 Peter 3:18.

IX. ***Are we truly putting God first in life and abounding in the work of the Lord when we stay home or when we attend?***

- A. Psalm 27:4.
- B. 1 Corinthians 15:58.
- C. 1 Timothy 4:13.

X. ***Are we sacrificing ourselves for the cause of Christ, like He sacrificed Himself for us, when we stay home or when we attend?***

- A. Romans 12:1-2.
- B. Ephesians 5:2.
- C. Hebrews 13:15.

Conclusion. Let me encourage you to not miss any assembly of the church, unless there is a very compelling cause. If you habitually miss these services, designed for your edification, you need to ask yourself these tough questions (cf. James 4:17).

Go to work and ask your employer how much importance he or she places on attendance. Go to school and ask teachers how important it is for children to be there everyday. What about God's work? Is that not important? If you do not want to attend, then ask yourself why. Be diligent and attend every service you can.