

A Place to Belong

Looking for True Fellowship

Introduction. The Church Growth Movement has existed for approximately 70 years. It was started by Donald McGavran and introduced many “models” in Protestant church development such as the Attractional Church (seeker-sensitive), the Missional Church, and the Emerging Church. The Attractional model has produced enormous churches with multi-site campuses including Willow Creek, Saddleback, and Life Church-North Point.

The main concept behind the Attractional model is pragmatism which attempts to make churches attractive to “seekers”. This era brought a focus on “felt needs” of visitors, contemporary music, and user-friendly, market-driven church services.

Biblically, seeking isn’t the issue; what we’re seeking is. In the book of Acts, Christians would seek to worship with other Christians (9:26; 21:7; 28:14). When they did assemble, what were they looking for?

This is an important question because a lot depends on what people want when they come to a church. One of the most effective and foundational messages that we could contemplate today is why you’re actually here. Over the next several minutes, we’ll see how people approached Jesus and the church, discerning their motives against the Word of God, and asking if any of those motives match your motives when it comes to attending a place to worship. That will demand earnest, individual reflection and examination. We’ll then conclude with Bible-based facts about where we should be when we worship, and what we should always be seeking.

I. What Are You Seeking?

- A. Exciting entertainment (Luke 23:8)?
- B. Social services (John 6:26-27)?
- C. Personal preferences (2 Timothy 4:3-4)?
- D. Personal righteousness (Romans 10:3)?
- E. Personal power (3 John 9-10)?
- F. Worldly prestige (Matthew 23:6-8)?
- G. Low-level involvement (Revelation 2:4-5; 3:1-3, 16)?
- H. Unconditional acceptance (1 Corinthians 5:1-13)?

II. We Need to Be Where ...

- A. We can please God (Galatians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:4).
- B. We can hear the truth of Jesus (Matthew 17:5; Acts 3:22).
- C. We can be motivated as servants of righteousness (Romans 6:18).
- D. We can be an active member of the body (Romans 16:1-2).

III. Let’s Always Be Seeking ...

- A. God (Acts 17:27; Hebrews 11:6) and Jesus (Matthew 28:5; Acts 15:17).
- B. The kingdom (Matthew 6:33; John 6:27).
- C. The will of the Father (John 5:30; 6:38).
- D. Heaven (Romans 2:7; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 11:14; 13:14).

Conclusion. Due in large part to the Church Growth Movement, churches today operate on an “enterprise model” which means functioning with the parameters of a modern business, generating revenue through products or services to fund its operations, rather than relying on contributions and donations

On the other hand, what the disciples in the New Testament looked for was true fellowship, as defined by God through the New Testament. They wanted to share or participate with saints of similar faith who could look for the interests of God, then serve Him and be an inspiration to one another in the truth of God. That’s our goal here and we want to motivate you to do the same wherever you worship in spirit and truth.

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