

CONNECTED TO CHRIST

Why Membership Matters

New Group Study
Wednesdays, June 29 – July 27, 2022
Noon | Online

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PREFACE & OPENING PRAYER



PREFACE: This study is geared especially to people who may have been raised in the church and might still consider themselves Christians but who do not view official membership in a congregation or regular participation in worship as important.

For active church members, it also serves as a good refresher or general explanation of what congregations are and do.

The book can give regular churchgoers a clearer understanding of what they already experience at church and help them communicate the importance of it to their loved ones who are questioning their need for church.

OPENING PRAYER

CHAPTER 2: THE PURPOSE OF CHURCH

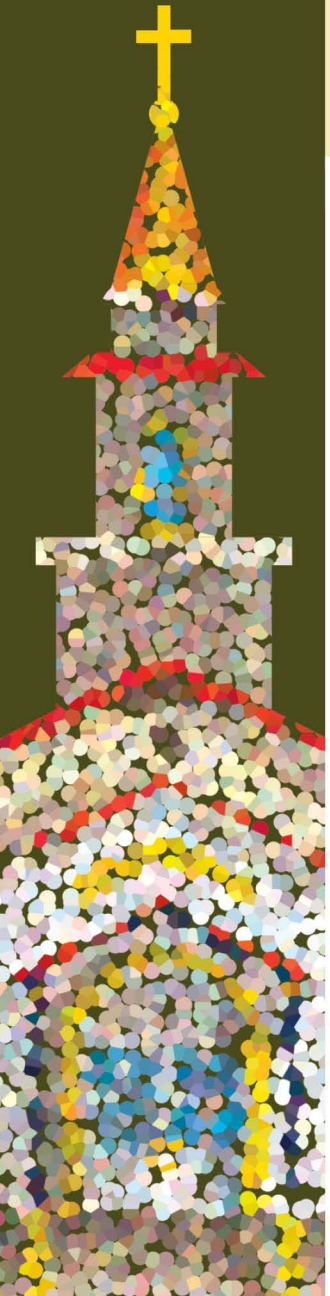


Most people, even non-Christians or Christians who have not been active in church, have been to at least a few church services in their life, maybe for a family occasion or major holiday.

On some occasions, perhaps, they were glad they went, while other times they might have thought it a waste of time.

In some cases, people who were bored in church might not really have understood what was going on, while people who were disappointed in a service might have gone in expecting one thing but got another.

CHAPTER 2: THE PURPOSE OF CHURCH



Attending regular Weekly worship is perhaps the most visible and obvious difference between *active* Christians and others.

Regardless of whether you go to church every week, every now and then, or practically never, you can benefit from knowing more and more what a service is for - and why it is a good idea to attend **every** week.

In this session, we will discuss the concepts in ...

Chapter 2: THE PURPOSE OF CHURCH

Chapter 2 Discussion

- **List everything you know of that your church, or some other typical congregation, might sponsor or do in a typical week. (use the CHAT feature to submit your answer as we work through this piece.)**
- **If your church could sponsor or be involved in only one activity all week, what do you think that activity ought to be? Tell us Why?**

Chapter 2 Discussion (Continued)

- Many good things that congregations often do -- things such as working for justice, helping the needy, or strengthening local communities -- are also done by other, non-religious groups.
 - What does your church do that you could also participate in through some other (non-church) group?
 - What does your church do that could be found only in a Christian congregation?

Chapter 2 Discussion (Continued)

- **When was the last time you attended a worship service In-Person?**
(use the CHAT feature to submit your answer)
 - **Why did you decide to attend?**
- **Do you think the last church service you attended fulfilled the purpose for which you went to it?**
- **How did it ... _____ your expectations?**
 - a) meet,
 - b) fall short of, or
 - c) exceed

Chapter 2 Discussion (Continued)

- **What is the difference in atmosphere between a wedding service and a wedding reception?**
- **Which do you prefer?** (Use the CHAT feature to submit your answer)
 - **Which atmosphere is more suited to a regular Weekly worship service?**
 - **Why?**

Chapter 2 Discussion (Continued)

- **How do you cooperate with what God is doing to you in Divine Service?**
 - **Which parts of the service do you find were easy to cooperate with**

and...
 - **With which parts do you find were difficult to cooperate?**
(Use the CHAT feature to submit your answer)

Chapter 2 Discussion (Continued)

In Luther's Small Catechism, his explanation of the Third Commandment says, "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

- **In what outward ways do we acknowledge that participation in Divine Service is sacred?**
- **How do you break this commandment by treating church as something frivolous?**

"We can see the people standing or kneeling on either side of us to receive Communion, but even though we can't see the whole company of heaven, we know by faith that they are there too."

For Next Session...

We will get a little deeper into some new questions at our next session...

If you have not already done so, read the Book...

Chapter 3: MORE THAN “PRAY, PAY, and OBEY”

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer

- Recording is turned off
- Any SPECIFIC Requests for prayer?