

Do you go to church? Is there any biblical foundation for asking this question?

A limited overview of what the bible says about the church.

Matthew 16:16-19 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." [17] Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. [18] And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. [19] And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Acts 2:46-47 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Romans 16:3,5 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, [5] Likewise greet the church that is in their house.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, [23] which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. [13] For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

In many ways "The Church" has lost its direction and understanding of who she is.

- There is a lot of focus on individual churches, denominations, ministries, and leaders. This often causes a spirit of competition.
- The Church belongs to Christ; He is the head.
- It is His body.
- It isn't about a building. It is about people who have been redeemed and belong to the Lord Jesus.
- In the NT the Church is represented in 3 ways: 1) Universal; people belonging to every kindred, nation, tongue, and tribe. 2) It is often spoken of as a group of Christ followers meeting in various locations, and 3) it is revealed as individuals who make up that body, therefore instead of inviting people to go to church it should be the church going to people.

The call of the church is to fulfill the ministry of Christ.

- To Him be glory in the church - Eph 3:21
 - To make disciples (followers of Christ) - Mt 28:19-20
 - To give witness to the fact that we are His disciples by our love one for another. Jn 13:35
 - To declare the Kingdom of God - Acts 19:8
1. Proclaiming Jesus as King
 2. Inviting people into His reign
 3. Demonstration kingdom values
 4. Anticipating His return

Denominations will come and go, local churches will do the same (7 churches in Rev.), and leaders will as well. However, the Church Universal - the Bride of Christ- will endure and be victorious in Her groom.

