

International Bible Way Church of Jesus Christ, Inc.
NORTHEAST OHIO | NORTHWEST PA
DISTRICT

**7 @ 7 District Prayer,
Devotion & Bible Study**

Monthly Phone Call

Discussion

**WITH THE GREAT FALLING AWAY
HOW DO WE CLAIM PEOPLE BACK BEFORE
IT IS TOO LATE?**





Before considering this question,
we must first understand that
there's a difference between:

Leaving the Church: electing to no longer attend and neglecting to participate in congregational engagement. **Heb. 10:25**

Backsliding: Although once a believer, have digressed to a life of sin, actively turns their back on God and the ways of God
Prov. 14:14, Luke 9:62, Heb 10:26

Falling Away: Apostasy and a universal rejection and renunciation of GOD, and the ways of GOD; [Defection]
2nd Thess. 2:3; Heb. 6:6

Let's consider what well Known theologians offer concerning these critical matters that the Church faces.

CLAIMING PEOPLE BACK
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE?

Leaving
Church

Faith is not given to us to Fail. **A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)**

Backslide
from being
a believer

The man who once fought against the world, the devil, and the flesh; has retreated from the battle or joined the enemy. [He] once belonged to the congregation of the saints, but is now removed from them, and is set down in the synagogue of Satan. **Adam Clarke (1762-1832)**

Falling Away,
The Apostate
“Apostasia”
Latin

...there is almost no subject on which **caution** is more proper, and on which men are more liable to delusion. The necessity for the caution here given has not ceased. **Albert Barnes (1798-1870)**

Much of what we call Falling Away, is really people ‘falling out’ with a particular church, pastor or congregation of people.

‘Falling away’ assumes that someone(s) have been in good standing and decided to depart and repudiate that position. No longer in need of a relationship with GOD.

So, why is there **FALLING OUT** within the Church?

We see it locally, and we see it in the body of Christ
writ large

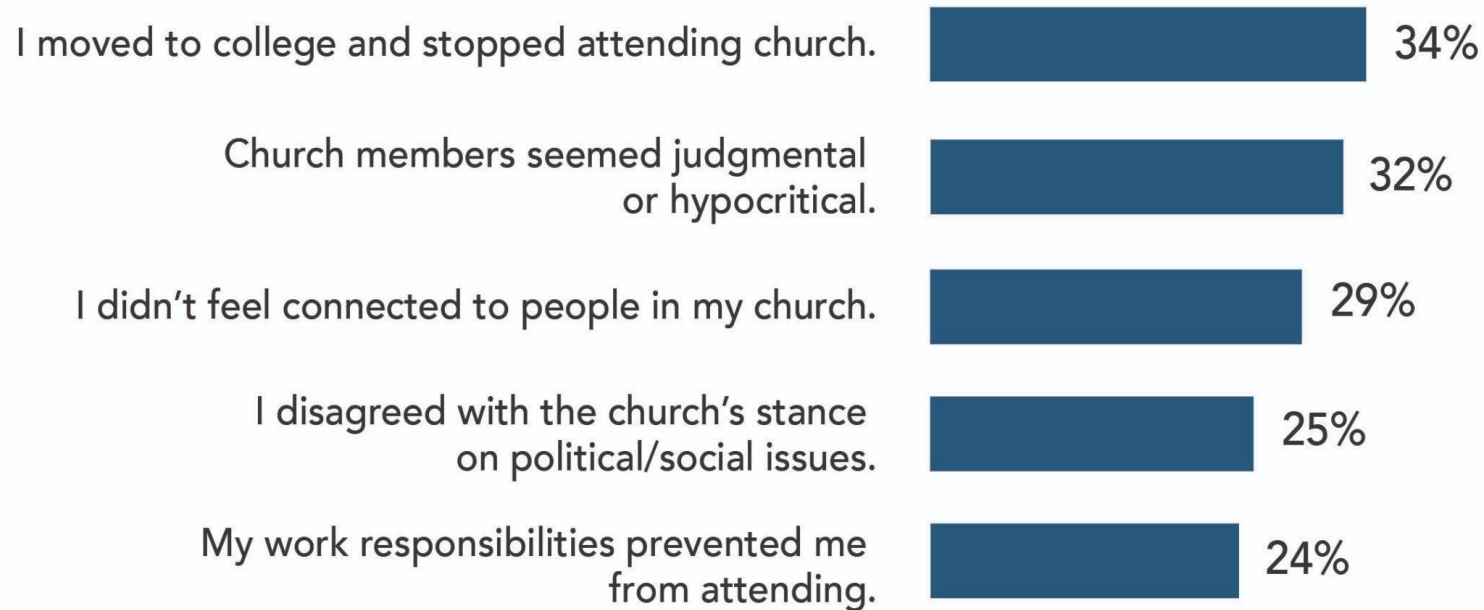
- ✓ **47% Believe in GOD, yet have no interest in attending Church**
- ✓ **53% leave because they were offended**
- ✓ **Most have tried More than 1 Church (church hoppers)**
- ✓ 60% want to go somewhere closer to residence
- ✓ 41% stop and haven't come back

One of the most pronounced
age demographics where we
are witnessing a “**Falling Out**”
is among young people...

Lifewayresearch.com/pewtopew

Top five reasons church dropouts say they stopped attending church

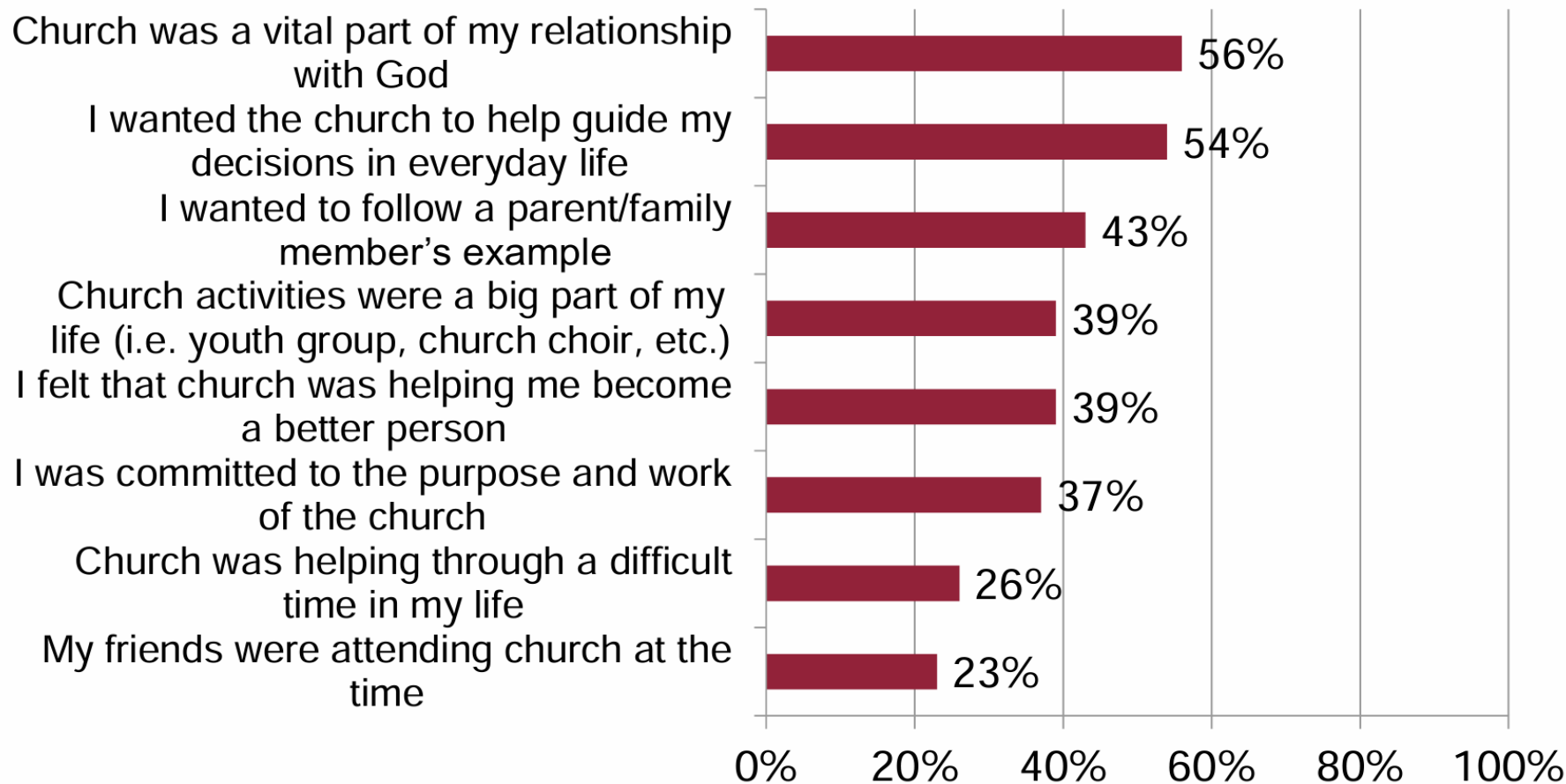
Among young adults (ages 23-30) who attended a Protestant church regularly for at least a year in high school:



Notes: Respondents were asked to select all that apply.

Factors contributing to continued regular attendance

Among those who continued attending between ages 18-22



Q5: "Which of the following factors contributed to your continued regular attendance between the ages of 18 and 22? (Select all that apply)" n=679



*It is difficult to know if someone has simply
Left the Church, Backslidden, Fallen Out (or)
is part of the great **Falling Away**.*

- Keep in mind you are not just dealing with a personal or social situation you are dealing with a spirit..
- ***You must ask the Holy Ghost to give you discernment of what type of spirit you are contending with when you approach anyone***

*Remember, some things only come out by fasting and praying.
Matt. 17:21*

If someone leaves, no matter what the problem: only the grace of GOD, will determine if there is redemption.

Our job is to teach, preach and spread the good news. Prayerfully this will win others over to Christ. *We are building relationships, and this **TAKES WORK**.*

We are the conduits for Christ. It is the LORD'S job to save, deliver and set free.. Only He gives the increase.

CLAIMING PEOPLE BACK
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE?

Clearly the Church is dealing with apathy and diminished interests, and this leads us to the question at hand:

*What can we do as a Church and a people to **claim back those that have “FALLEN AWAY”** before it is too late?*

What does the Bible say about
the 'GREAT FALLING AWAY' and
Who does it impact?

CLAIMING PEOPLE BACK
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE?

We will explore seven (7) Bible passages that give
us insight to the meaning of '**falling away**'

1 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, **except there come a falling away first**, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4***

*Seven (7) Bible passages giving us
insight on the “falling away”, (cont’d)*

- 2 **Matthew 24:10-13**...*many shall be offended...love of many wax cold*
- 3 **I Tim. 4:1-3**...*that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith,*
- 4 **2nd Tim. 3:1-5**...*know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*
- 5 **Hebrews 6:4-6**...*If they shall fall away, to renew - again unto repentance;*
- 6 **Hebrews 10:26-27**...*For if we sin willfully - no more sacrifice for sins,*
- 7 **2nd Peter 2:20-22**...*For it had been better for them not to have known
the way of righteousness,*

To be effective in our war
against the enemy, we must
understand a little more about
the battle.

WITH THE GREAT FALLING AWAY
HOW DO WE CLAIM PEOPLE BACK
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE?

- Who left?
- Why did they leave?
- When did they leave?
- Where did they go?
- What are they doing since leaving?

If we are dealing with 'Falling Away' we are also
dealing with Apostasy.

Which is a condition of the heart, mind and spirit

The characteristics of - **APOSTASY**

5, R's

- Rejection – Hosea 4:6
- Rebellion – Deut. 31:27; Prov. 17:11
- Resist-Acts 7:51
- Revolt – Isa. 59:12-13
- Refuse to Recognize – Jer. 8:5



**WHERE DO WE START
and whose responsibility is it to
reclaim the lost? Can the
'GREAT FALLING AWAY' be prevented?**

Everyone should want to reclaim the lost, but there are some circumstances where special care is needed. It is important to recognize where, when and how your help is needed.

For example, if someone has been offended, it may be necessary for the offending party to address the offended individual. We need to take every person's concern personally.

CLAIMING PEOPLE BACK BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE?

The only way to fight (that is, slow down the ‘falling away’) is to better manage how we address our relationships with everyone we engage or witness to?

And the more we know about the way others feel about the Lord, His commandments and His ways, the better we can be a witness to them, pray for them, help them be restored.



CLAIMING PEOPLE BACK BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE?

These 5 R's give us hope and encourage us to go and compel others to come

☐ Redeem – Ps. 107:2; Titus 2:14

Lutron = Ransom

☐ Restore – Jer. 27:22; Gal. 6:1

☐ Renew – Ps. 51:10; Heb. 6:6

☐ Rescue- Ps. 35:17

☐ Repentance – Acts 2:38; Heb. 6:4-6

Make your conversation about the LORD, not yourself or any other personality.

What should we be doing?



Spending less time pulling on those that have decided to leave or have lost sight of - or outright rejected GOD.

**CLAIMING PEOPLE BACK
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE?**

**Spending more time
persuading those that
never knew, understood or
were introduced to GOD.**

*The unchurched is as important
as the church*

WE NEED THE RIGHT METHOD & MENTALITY In Reclaiming

- Don't get caught up in the numbers game
- Don't be afraid to take risks (ask everyone you meet)
- Don't apply for a job you can't do

*Remember the rule of 5%
Not everyone will buy what you
are selling*

principle that states about 5% of potential customers are actively in-market to buy at any given time, while 95% are not.

Be Strategic w/Retention Strategies

- Strong Onboarding Experience (New Adults/ Members)
- Maintain a Communication Calendar
- Build Trust
- Show up for them – they will show up for you

More Retention Strategies

- Community Building (Engaged Peer-to-Peer)
- Implement a feedback loop (Engage/ Listen to their thoughts & ideas)
- Win-back campaigns (Re-engagement efforts/ don't give up on them so easily)
- Educate, Empower, Equip to Employ and Deploy to service.

The work of reclaiming the lost
is serious work and it needs
serious people doing the work

PERSONNEL: Who will do what?

- ✓ Church must have an Information (I. T.)
Technology Specialist
- ✓ Youth Organizer (leader)
- ✓ Outreach Officer



Workable Tools as Possible Solutions

- ✓ ***Begin with our youth...Isaiah 11:6***
- ✓ ***Increase the laborers...Matt. 9:37-38***
- ✓ ***Align our expectations with our efforts...Luke 17:11-19***
- ✓ ***Broaden our borders...Mark 16:15-16***
- ✓ ***Strengthen our resolve...1st Cor. 15:58***

DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT Tools & Right ATTITUDE?

Although Coming to Church is necessary because it is your place of sanctuary. It is where you get equipped, prepared, and commissioned. However, coming to JESUS is where you get saved.

Stop working to get people to come to Church. Work to get people to come to JESUS...Just Now!



Where do we go to
find these people?

*We Must See Our Way Going to
Youth Groups, Schools,
Missions, Home
Visitation, Nursing
Homes/Hospitals,
Prisons,
Community Centers,
and our very own
neighborhood*

Highway and hedges...



**Vision: The Eye
of the Beholder**



END OF LESSON