



Church... Who Needs It

“I’m not happy with my church.” “My church doesn’t challenge me.” “I get nothing out of church.”

All of these things I have heard so many times I tend to go on “auto-pilot” before the last words are uttered. It’s not that it makes me angry when they say it. If I’m honest, it used to make me mad; REAL MAD. But not anymore. I guess I’m a little more seasoned and not so quick to anger. And I’ve realized something. 99.9% of the time it reflects the person more than the church. Here’s what I mean...

When I was in a college science class, we would have to do experiments. Typical things like how one thing reacts with another; you get the idea. But before there was any chemical reaction you had to create a “baseline”. A baseline is the properties of a chemical before the experiment to measure the reaction another component brings to the chemical. Your baseline was the starting point in which other things were measured.

I know this isn’t a popular thing to say but church attendance works much the same. Someone’s commitment to church is a baseline to any ministries that person does. See...not popular. Please bear with me though. In the first century, when the church was growing exponentially, people felt a strong need to be in the service. For fellowship. For prayer. For preaching. And for communion. Their body and mind almost craved it and God was doing incredible things through it. It was a good thing too because they were facing forces that were literally trying to kill them and the church. They would not know who would be there next time. Who would be in prison or killed. They had to be at church as evidenced by the growth and power.

Today it seems church has become “optional”. Kind of a “take it or leave it” in the demands of life. Don’t get me wrong, Satan is still trying to destroy us and the church but because it isn’t so obvious, we honestly think we are just as strong without church as with it. THAT SIMPLY IS NOT TRUE. In the many years I have been in ministry, I have seen the strongest, most mature Christians show a strong, mature commitment to being in worship. I’ve seen many who were repulsed at the notion that attendance is so needed, but they tend to keep from growing in their faith. And the ministry of the Body is done primarily by those who are more committed to being in church. In fact, I’ve noticed those who are ministering outside of church feel a draw to be there each week and feel weak when they are not. And the opposite is that people who don’t make a commitment to be there usually don’t have a ministry at all. That is part of the problem. When you’re not using what God gave you, you don’t need to be refilled and ministered to.

Don’t believe me? Drive your car on E and tell me about the many miles you traveled and the things God showed you.

From My Heart,
Billy