

LIFE AS GOD INTENDED

Lesson Six

God intends for Christians to go to a local church.

The Bible assumes Christians will go to church as a part of their normal pattern of living and growth. To not go would be wrong. Churches are an accepted reality in the Word of God.

I Thessalonians 1:1 to the (*local*) church at Thessalonica

Philippians 1:1 saints at Philippi and overseers and deacons (organized with structure)

Galatians 1:2 Churches of Galatia—region with many local bodies

II Corinthians 1:1 church of God includes ALL saints

Hebrews 13:7, 17 those who led you, obey leaders—there should be someone you're following and accountable to.

Acts 14:23 appointed elders (plural) led by those within the church, not a stranger or another organization

THREE REASONS TO GO TO CHURCH (there are others as well)

1. God intends for us to know that church is vital for encouragement; Christianity is counter cultural and thus we feel out of place here, that can bring discouragement and difficulties.
John 16:33 in this world you will have tribulation
Hebrews 10:24-25 encouraging one another
I Thessalonians 5:11 & 14 encourage, help the weak
Romans 1:10-11 be encouraged
Galatians 6:2 bear one another's burdens
Acts 15:30-32 encourage & strengthen
I Thessalonians 4:18 comfort
2. God intends for us to know that church is imperative for teaching; listen together to be transformed, it's where we hear & learn; we are constantly bombarded with lies and it is important that we KNOW the truth
Acts 2:42 devoting (not half-hearted, all in) themselves to the apostle's teaching
Colossians 3:16 with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another
I Timothy 4:13 give attention to teaching
Ephesians 4:11-16 to equip His people
Romans 15:14 able to admonish one another
Acts 20:7 Paul began talking to them for a long time (it is a process)
3. God intends for us to know that church is vital for relationships; He intends for us to go through life WITH friends, brothers & sisters (in Christ)
Romans 12:10-16 devoted to one another; all are honorable and have a place
Romans 15:7 accept one another
I Corinthians 12:25 & 26 Have the same care for one another
Galatians 5:13 through love, serve one another
Ephesians 4:2 & 3 showing forbearance for one another
Ephesians 4:32 be kind to one another
James 5:16 Pray for one another