

# Things to Consider in Your Search for a Good Church

It is understandable that you might see all the different Christian churches and think that they are all in conflict with one another or competing with one another for the title of "the true church". This simply is not the case...in fact, if a church or a denomination claims to be the one and only true church, you can be certain it is not!

Churches do differ. Some are more formal, and others more personal. Some people like traditional worship, others like contemporary worship. After all, the church is, in its most basic definition, the *people* of God. And we all know, people come in all shapes and sizes, with all kinds of different personalities, tastes and quirks- and so do churches.

Searching for a church can seem a little intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. Don't stress over finding a church. As you search, pray and ask God to guide you to the right church for you. Sometimes it takes visiting a number of different churches (and a number of services at a church) before you find the "right one"

Here are some things to give careful consideration to as you search for the church God would be pleased for you to join, attend regularly and in which to serve.

## 1) **What are the church's professed beliefs?** (Key doctrines of Scripture?)

- Ask for a statement of faith for you to look over (check their webpage).
- What do they believe about God, Holy Spirit, the Trinity?
- What do they believe about Jesus?

Is He God? God's eternal Son? Is He the only Savior? Is His death the only sufficient atonement for our sins? Did He die for all people in the whole world or just for the "elect"? (1 John 2:2)

Do they teach Jesus is the risen Savior and the coming King?

- What do they teach about salvation?  
How does one become a child of God? It should be through faith alone, in Christ alone and by God's grace alone (We can't do anything to make His salvation better or more lasting. He has done all that is necessary to provide salvation). Our only part is to humbly receive Christ as Savior. Is salvation forever or do they say you can lose it? (The Bible says it is eternal! John 3:16)
- What do they say is the Gospel? (should be that Jesus died, was buried and was raised to life by God the Father. (Anything else added to this is a false Gospel - Galatians 1:8).
- What do they believe about the Bible?  
Is it inspired by God? Is the Bible complete and totally sufficient?
  - Beware if they believe and teach God is still giving new revelation. This includes dreams, visions, words of knowledge, tongues, spirit guided trips, out-of-body experiences, or prophecies. (These are contrary to Scripture - Revelation 22:18,19).
- What do they believe about eternity?

Is heaven a real place? Who goes there? Is hell a real place and who goes there? (The Bible teaches these are real places and they are the only 2 options after one's death).

**2) Does the preacher preach from the Bible?**

What is his style? Does he mainly read a verse or two and then tell stories, and try to be humorous and relatable or does he teach from the Scriptures and explain the passage well and then apply the truths to life?

**3) What is the music like?**

- Do they still include the old hymns? Is there only contemporary styled music? Do the songs that are sung have a true spirit of worship and glorify God rather than being an entertainment rock band style?

**4) Do the services routinely include the 2 Biblical ordinances of the Church (Baptism and Lord's Supper - *communion*)?**

- Do they baptize by immersion only? (Only method shown in Scripture).
- Do they only baptize those who have received Christ as Savior?
- Do they baptize babies? (This is not taught in the Bible.)

**5) Does the church have outreach programs?**

- What is the church's involvement in reaching the community, our country and our world with the Gospel?
- Does the church support missionaries on a regular basis?

**6) Is the church near enough in proximity for you to regularly participate in worship and activities? (This is crucial).**

**7) When you attend, do you sense that God ministers to you through the preaching and worship?**

**8) Do you sense from the Pastor and from the congregation that they are serious about pleasing God?**

**9) Are there opportunities for you to get involved and to serve?**