



Scripture: Corinthians 12:27, Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2:18, Romans 12:4–5

Hey everyone! I'm so glad you're here today. Whether it's your first time or you've been part of this group for a while, I want you to know this is a space where you can be honest, ask questions, and explore what God has for your life. We want to journey with you as you seek the Lord and His truth. So, today we are going to ask a question that a lot of people are quietly wondering: *Do I need church?*

Before we go any further, let's take a moment to pray and ask God to open our hearts.

[\[Pray here\]](#)

Now, I want to start with a little story.

It's Saturday night. You're at a friend's house. You guys are chilling upstairs, maybe playing video games or just talking about random stuff. You have known this friend for a year or two and you first met them at youth group or maybe camp. You hang out every so often and genuinely enjoy each other's company.

In the middle of the conversation, your friend suddenly says, "I don't think I want to go to church tomorrow. I mean, what's the point? I still believe in God. Can't I just have my own relationship with Him? Honestly, church feels boring. It'd be awesome to just sleep in tomorrow."

And maybe, in that moment, you pause. Because deep down, you've thought the same thing or maybe you've been feeling the same way. When the alarm goes off on Sunday morning, you find yourself asking, *Do I really have to go? Is it so bad if I just stay home today? I mean I had a busy week full of practice, homework... what's the big deal?*

If you've ever thought that—or maybe still are thinking that—just know you're not alone. But instead of pushing those thoughts aside, let's dig into it. Let's ask, *why do I feel this way?*

Maybe for you, it's that church feels... kind of boring. You sit through the message, try to stay awake, and wonder what any of it has to do with your life. You're not trying to be disrespectful; it's just hard to connect sometimes. The songs might not be your thing, or the talk goes over your head, or maybe you've heard it all before.

Or maybe it has nothing to do with the service or elements, but the people at church make it hard. Maybe you've felt judged before. Maybe you've had a weird experience with someone acting fake, or you don't feel like you fit in with the group. It can be tough to walk into a place that's *supposed* to feel welcoming and instead feel like you're on the outside.

Another reason might be that life just feels too full. You've got practice after school, games on the weekend, a mountain of homework, and maybe even a job. Going to church starts to feel like another thing on your schedule. You would love to have Sunday mornings to be productive or even sleep in.

Or maybe you've thought this: *"I can follow God on my own."* I can have a personal relationship with God and just not attend church. I can read my Bible, listen to worship music and even occasionally listen to a sermon or two.

These are all valid emotions, and I don't blame anyone for feeling this way. But I want to be honest with you, I LOVE THE CHURCH! I know, I know that sounds biased coming from me, but I do. I see the church as so much more than a weekly event with music, a message, and maybe donuts. Honestly, if that is all you see it as, then I totally get why it would be a struggle to show up. But the church is so much more than that.

Now before we begin, I need to start with couple of disclaimers. First, I'm not going to be able to cover everything there is to know about the Church. It's deep, rich, and full of beauty, and we could spend a lifetime exploring it. Today, we're just going to scratch the surface.

Second, I know the word "church" can stir up all kinds of emotions. Maybe for you, it brings warmth, belonging, and hope. But for others, it might bring up disappointment, frustration, or even pain. The truth is, no church is perfect. Every church is made up of imperfect people, which means there is going to be some messiness, mistakes, and even moments of hurt. Some of you may have experienced that firsthand. And if that's part of your story, I want you to know that I see that, and I don't want to gloss over it.

Still, in the middle of all the brokenness, God has a beautiful design and purpose for the Church. That's what I want to explore with you today; not the version shaped by human flaws, but the one God intended from the beginning.

So, let's start by asking, what is the Church?

The word "church" in the Bible comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*, which simply means "the called-out ones" or "the assembly." Church isn't just a place you go, it's a people you belong to. It's a gathering of people who have been called out of darkness and into God's light (1 Peter 2:9). That's identity language. It's not just about what we do. It's about who we are.

We don't *attend* church. We *are* the church.

The Church is God's family. In Scripture, the Church is referred to as the body of Christ. Now that might sound a little weird. Like, *what do you mean I'm the body of Christ?* I know it sounds confusing, but let's unpack that some more.

Being the body of Christ isn't just poetic language, it's a spiritual reality. According to Scripture, the Church *is* Christ's body. As Paul writes in **1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)**:

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

When someone is united with Jesus—saved by grace through faith—they are also united to His people. There's no version of Christian faith that exists in isolation. To say, "I love Jesus but not the Church," is kind of like saying, "I like your face, but not your body." It just doesn't work.

Through Jesus, we belong to one another, not as acquaintances or distant relatives, but as organs and limbs of the same body. Each part has a role to play, a purpose to fulfill, and a need for the others to function.

The Church is the visible expression of Jesus in the world. Together, we reflect His love, His truth, His humility, and His glory, more powerfully than any one of us could alone.

Not to mention, in the very depth of our souls, we were not created to be alone. This has been a part of who we are since the beginning.

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