

# Can You Be A Christian Without Going To Church?

I had a study with one of my listeners recently, and he claimed to be a Christian but didn't attend church. Unfortunately I think a lot of believers think that way. Is that even possible?

God gives a definite NO" to that in Heb 10:24-27 – “[And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.](#)”

What this passage is saying in our vernacular is church is mandatory, that skipping church is just like any other willful sin, it will cause us to receive “[fiery indignation](#)” from God. And of course the place God hands out fiery indignation is in h-e-l-l, the bad place.

So it doesn't matter why one misses church, even if it is because of family or an Alabama football game – we have made the wrong choice. Matt 6:33 says referring to the necessities of life – “[But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.](#)” So even working our job is not a valid excuse for neglecting our service to the Lord.

Acts 20:7 shows the disciples came together on the first day of the week for communion and preaching. Many passages (such as I Cor 11:1) teach we should follow their example. So if you are a disciple, you should be there.

I Cor 11 teaches four times (verses 17,18,20,33) the whole church should be together (“[into one place](#)” – 14:23) for the service where the Lord's Supper is partaken of. Christians who do not participate in that are not really being careful to follow God's instructions, which reflects upon their love and respect for God (John 14:15).

What are the reasons we should attend church (besides the fact God commands it)? ...

When we miss church, we miss worshipping God in song with the other saints – Col 3:16 – “[Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.](#)”

We miss praying to God with the other saints – Acts 12:5 – “[Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.](#)”

We miss partaking of the Lord's Supper – I Cor 11:23-28 – “[For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.](#)” God commands “let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup” so it is not optional.

We miss contributing to the treasury of the church for the Lord's work – I Cor 16:1-3 “[Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I](#)

come. And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.”

We miss studying the Bible with the saints – Acts 20:7 – “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”

We miss the encouragement we get from the saints and miss out on encouraging them – Heb 10:24-25 – “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Do you see the duty we have to provoke one another to love and good works, and to exhort (encourage) one another? I think God was so wise to have us meet together in congregations to help each other be faithful Christians. That task would be next to impossible if we had to go the whole thing alone.

Here is a quick summary of what we miss out on when we miss church – Acts 2:42 – “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

The word “Christian” means “follower of Christ.” We can’t follow Christ around physically every day through the country side like the apostles did; Christ is not here physically anymore. So what does it mean to follow Christ today? Someone says they are a follower of Gandhi. What does that mean?; Gandhi is dead. It means – we study Gandhi’s teachings and we follow his teachings. Same for being a follower of Christ – we study His teachings (the Bible) and follow His teachings. But if we are not attending church faithfully, we are not following His teachings (not even close); we are not really being a Christian.