

Question

Do I have to go to church to be a Christian?

Answer

No. If you are a believer, YOU are the church. You may never step foot in a church building. However, once the true meaning of “church” is understood, we will find that believers are meant join together in regular fellowship. People who have no desire to be obedient to God’s plan may, in fact, have a false salvation. Meeting together regularly is God’s plan. A believer should want to be a part of God’s plan. We are admonished in the Bible to meet together as a means to carry out God’s will for his church. As long as circumstances allow, we should all be in fellowship.

23 Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 24 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:23-24

So much more can happen as we meet together than if we stay separated and alone. The potential is endless. However, those who stay away shut the door on all of what God wants to do in us and through us. Ephesians 4:11-16 discusses in detail God’s plan for us meeting together regularly and his plan can only happen as “each part does its work.” We like to call ourselves at Lake Murray Church an “Ephesians 4:11 church.”

We should not think of meeting on Sundays as merely “going to church.” Remember, the purpose for being involved in a church is to be in the process of becoming equipped for works of service (Ephesians 4:12). People who do not get involved are displaying a form of selfishness that not only is counterproductive, but it is also in direct rebellion with God’s plan for those who belong to him. “...he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again” (2 Corinthians 5:15).