

## How to find a good church

It goes without saying that every believer should have a church home where they attend regularly. If you are looking for a Church, here are some things you should consider.

1. **Look for a Church prayerfully.** Like all other aspects of your decisions, you should begin your search by seeking the Lord's direction. "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path." Prov. 3:6

2. **Keep in mind that you're looking for a fellowship of believers.** A church is not a building, nor is it merely a ministry, it is the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23). So seek people who love the Lord and who love each other - people that will love you and people to whom you can give your love.

3. **Look for a Church that preaches the Word of God.** Seek the fellowship that has sound doctrine, proclaims the Word, and sincerely lifts up the Lord Jesus Christ in worship and in all they do. Much of this can be discovered by observation and for clarity, you can speak with the minister or other leaders about their beliefs and practices.

4. **Look for a Church that will draw you closer to Christ.** You need a Church that cares about you and who will help meet your spiritual needs. A church that will inspire you to grow in Christ, and will motivate you toward the aspirations of God. You need a church whose preaching and teaching will not merely appease or entertain you, but will boldly challenge you to advance beyond your comfort zones to live toward God's high ideals.

5. **Look for a Church where you can become committed.** In many ways your relationship with the Church is similar to a marriage - you can't get any more than what you put into it. The only church in which you will ever grow and mature spiritually is the fellowship where you will commit yourself and get involved - where the people submit themselves to God and to each other - where they will both encourage you and hold you accountable.

6. **Look for a church that is attempting to reach lost souls.** Find the fellowship that is seeking to bring lost lives to Jesus Christ, both in their community and on foreign mission fields. Such a church understands its purpose and will provide a healthy environment in which to grow.

7. **Look for a Church where you can contribute.** Someone once compared the church to a restaurant - a place where you get served a meal. Actually, the church is more like a potluck dinner. What you bring with you to church is added to the content of the meal. Your contribution to the gathering helps to make it what it is. Therefore seek the church where you can roll up your sleeves and help them to minister to others. Don't look for a church that will only 'serve you' but look for a church in which you can "serve." A church that will help you to develop your talents and allow you to use them to the glory of God.

8. **Look for a church that is a reflection of the one you read about in your Bible.** Frequently people look for a Church like the one in which they "got saved" or like one they see on TV. Always use the Bible as the standard to measure a church - not other churches. Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). In the final analysis, this is the church you need to find and where your membership belongs - the one that was built by Jesus Christ.