

## **5 Reasons You Should Leave Your Church**

**INTRODUCTION:** The church is a group of people not a place. That is what Jesus meant when He said He would build His Church. He spoke of a group of people who believed that He was the Christ, the Son of the Living God. The church is God's plan A on changing the world and there is no plan B. Throughout the New Testament, we find that a believer's interaction and involvement in the local church was something that was never regarded as optional. The church wasn't something they did or something they went to; it was who they were.

### **DISCUSSION:**

1. Jesus taught that the church would be unified by faith, known for love, messengers of hope, and assigned one mission. How does our concept of church differ from that of the New Testament?
2. What are some bad reasons for leaving a local church that you have heard? Why would you consider those bad?
3. Why is it important to understand and think of the church as a body and yourself as a part? How does that change how you should respond to it and engage with the church?
4. How does it change the way we think of the importance of the Church when we consider the fact that we need each other in order to be all that God wants us to be?
5. Why is it imperative to understand that no part of the body is dispensable? Do you think most people feel this way about their relationship to the local church?

**APPLICATION:** How can you get more engaged in your the local church? Find out and start taking steps.

### **MEMORIZATION:**

1 Corinthians 12:12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

**5 REASONS  
YOU SHOULD  
LEAVE YOUR CHURCH**

1. [Group]

The Local Church

2.

.... on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 16:18 NIV

3.

1. Unified By Faith
2. Known For Love
3. Messengers of Hope
4. One Mission

4.

If you are a follower of Jesus, being actively engaged in a local church is not **optional**.

5.

Just as a body, though one, has **many parts**, but all its many parts form **one body**, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12 NIV

6.

For we were all baptized by **one Spirit** so as to form **one body**—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were **all given the one Spirit** to drink.

1 Corinthians 12:13 NIV

7.

Even so the body is not made up of one part but of **many**.

1 Corinthians 12:14 NIV

8.

Now if the foot should say,  
“Because I am not a hand, I  
do not **belong** to the body,” it  
would not for that reason stop  
being **part** of the body.

1 Corinthians 12:15 NIV

9.

And if the ear should say,  
“Because I am not an eye, I  
do not **belong** to the body,” it  
would not for that reason stop  
being **part** of the body.

1 Corinthians 12:16 NIV

10.

If the whole body were an  
eye, where would the sense of  
hearing be? If the whole body  
were an ear, where would the  
sense of smell be?

1 Corinthians 12:17 NIV

11.

But in fact God has **placed** the  
parts in the body, every one of  
them, **just as he wanted them  
to be**. If they were all one part,  
where would the body be?

1 Corinthians 12:18-19 NIV

12.

I need you and you need me to  
be all that God wants us to be.

13.

As it is, there are many parts,  
but **one body**. The eye cannot  
say to the hand, “I don’t need  
you!” And the head cannot  
say to the feet, “I don’t need  
you!”

1 Corinthians 12:20-21 NIV

14.

...so that there should be no  
division in the body, but that  
its parts should have equal  
concern for each other.

1 Corinthians 12:25 NIV

15.

**ONE ANOTHER EACH OTHER:**  
*Love, Bear with, Carry each other’s  
burdens, Build up, Prefer, Accept,  
Forgive, Submit to, Comfort,  
Stir up, Pray, Serve,  
Be Hospitable, Judge not, Seek  
good for, Envy not, Bless*

16.

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

1 Corinthians 12:27 NIV

17.

We have been made a part of the church, and we are not designed to exist apart from the church.

18.

Why do I not feel close to God?  
Why am I not growing?  
What is my purpose?

19.

We will never change the world alone, but we can change it together.

20.

21.