

## Why Choose Church?

In a world with so many opportunities and invitations, why should we choose church as an option or even to make it a priority? Proverbs 27.17 reads, “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” As Christians gather, they are able to sharpen one another into a finer instrument to be used for the glory of God. This cannot be done in isolation. The church is a body, an organization, a group of individuals who have come together to corporately worship and praise our God as well as to continue in their knowledge and faith of God.

Consider sports and music groups for a moment. Can you show up for a game without ever having attended a practice? Sure, but will you be any good? Probably not. Can you come to play in a concert without ever having looked at the music? Good possibility, but will you play to your best ability? Survey says no. How then do we expect to reach and teach others who are not of the faith if we never attend and participate in church activities? If we don't read our instruction manual, the Bible, how will we ever know what God requires of us and how to handle ourselves? By spending time with other Christians, we create the opportunity to learn more about who God is and what He expects of us. If we live our lives apart from the Christian world, we can never be encouraged by our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

And in an “It's All About Me” world, we have to recognize too that our brothers and sisters in Christ need us too. If we never come to youth group, it's not just that we will miss out on our own growth opportunities, but the rest of the group will miss out on us. We will never know what we could have contributed to someone else's life to make it better and more manageable. What you may have contributed to the group could have been life changing for someone else. Are you satisfied with living a life that never impacts another?

Certainly, I'm all about the well-rounded individual. I think we should take full advantage of the opportunities and invitations we are given. But I think we must also consider the eternal impact. Just as you cannot play soccer or a symphony alone, neither can you grow in Christ all by yourself.