

WHY SHOULD A PERSON JOIN THE CHURCH?

A SERMON FROM NUMBERS 10:29-32

By Gene Keith

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"And it shall be, if thou go with us, yea, it shall be, that what goodness the LORD shall do unto us, the same will we do unto thee." (Numbers 10:32)

Moses had successfully led the Children of Israel out of Egypt. When he left Egypt he visited his relatives and friends in the wilderness where he had spent the forty years of his life. Moses wanted his relatives who lived in the wilderness to go along with them to the land God had promised him. This was Moses' invitation:

- God is with us.
- God has promised to bless us.
- If you go with us, God will bless you.

NUMBERS 10:29-32

29 One day Moses said to his brother-in-law, Hobab son of Reuel the Midianite, "We are on our way to the Promised Land. Come with us and we will treat you well, for the LORD has given wonderful promises to Israel!" 30 But Hobab replied, "No, I will not go. I must return to my own land and family." 31 "Please don't leave us," Moses pleaded. "You know the places in the wilderness where we should camp. 32 Come, be our guide and we will share with you all the good things that the LORD does for us." (NLT)

WE HAVE A SIMILAR SITUATION HERE TODAY.

God is with our church just like He was with Moses and the children of Israel. We are on a spiritual journey. They were going to a promised land and we are moving toward a promised life. We want our friends and relatives to come along with us and enjoy the blessings of God like we do.

I. WHY SHOULD YOU CONSIDER JOINING OUR CHURCH?

A. Joining a church is the most NATURAL thing for a true Christian to do.

If a person wanted an education, the natural thing for them to do would be to attend a school.

If a person enjoyed fishing, the natural thing for that person to do would be find a group of people who liked to fish.

If a person wanted to learn how to play golf, the most natural thing for that person to do would be to find someone who could teach them how to play.

In the same way, if a person is a Christian (truly born again), the natural thing to do is find a group of believers and hang out with them. That's exactly what the church is for.

The church is to the believer what a school is to a student.

The church is to the believer what a home and family is to an individual.

It is UNNATURAL (contrary to nature) for a saved person not to belong to a local church.

B. Joining a church is the BIBLICAL thing for a true Christian to do.

Jesus built the church for our sake, not His. He built the church for the benefit of His children. The church is called The **BODY** of Christ. The Church is called The **BRIDE** of Christ. The Bible says Christ **DIED** for the church.

When Christ returns - He is coming to **RECEIVE His CHURCH.**

Read through the book of Acts. When people believed, they were baptized and they became a part of the local church (Acts 2:41)

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

C. Joining a church is the most PRACTICAL thing for a true Christian to do.

(Eccl. 4:9-12) **"9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? 12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."**

The church becomes your family. The church becomes your support group. The church becomes your team. How many true friends do you really have? How many people could you call if you had an emergency?

Two hundred people pulling together can accomplish more than one person can alone.

Two hundred people giving \$1 is easier than for one person giving \$200. Two hundred people praying for you will get more from heaven than you praying alone.

Each of us has different talents and each of us has a different Spiritual Gift. When we put them all together, we can accomplish amazing things for God and others.

II. EIGHT THINGS OUR CHURCH CAN DO FOR YOU

A. You will become a part of God's forever family - - the church of the Living God. When you become a part of the local church you will meet true friends who will accept you just like you are. You will become a part of a support group that will stand by you in difficult times.

B. We can teach you all we know about the Bible. The Bible is the most exciting book in the world. It includes true Science, true History, true Prophecy, and God's plan for practical living.

C. We can help you find your place of service where you can serve God and find fulfillment. Each of us has some passion. There is something in each of us that we enjoy doing. What is your passion? Do you like music? Do you like teaching? Are you good at sports? Do you like working with children? Are you a builder? You can put that passion to work in the church and be used of God to accomplish great things.

Poem

**Only one life,
twill soon be past
and only what's done
for Christ will last."**

D. Our church can help you learn how to become a soul winner.

There are people in our church that have experience in being led by the very Spirit of God. We can give you true stories of how God has led us to specific individuals and they have received Christ and their lives have been changed.

We have people, just like you, who can teach you how to open conversations and learn how to talk with people about God and spiritual things.

There are people in this church who can go with you and teach you how to share your faith and see people's lives change.

E. Our church can help you do a better job in raising your children.

Families are in crisis today. Millions of children are being born out of wedlock and millions more are being raised in single-parent homes. I am not boasting, but there are people in this church who have successfully raised families and they can help you avoid costly mistakes.

F. Our church can provide your child with a quality, Christian, education and award them a High School diploma.

Education is a high priority in our church. We've been on the cutting edge of educational reform in North Florida for the past thirty-six years. We can take your child at age three and teach them through grade twelve and then award them a legitimate high school diploma. How many churches in this area can do that?

The big secret in Baptist churches is that eighty Percent of their young people will leave church after graduation and never return. This is in spite of Sunday School, Youth ministries, Education Buildings and etc.

Christian Schools are not perfect. They are not the silver bullet. But the statistics for young people who attend Christian Schools are far better than they are for those young people who attend church on Sunday and public schools on Monday. It's time for pastors and parents to wake up !

G. There's even a chance by attending our church or school you may meet the person God wants you to marry.

Several of our faithful members met their spouses in our church and/or in our school here. If your marriage has failed, there are people in our church who may even help you put things back together again.

H. Last but not least, when life is over our church has a great lay-way plan.

When your life is over and you draw your last breath - we can provide a final resting place for your tired body. We can conduct your funeral

and feed your family and your friends.

SUMMARY

Are you interested in joining this church? There are three ways our church receives members.

1. Profession of Faith & Baptism

If you have not yet received Christ, you may receive Him now and become a member by profession of your faith and being willing to be baptized (immersed).

2. By Letter

If you are a member of another Baptist church you may simply come by "letter." Our Church Clerk will write your former church and they will remove your name from their membership roll and your name will be added to ours.

3. By Statement

If you have already received Christ, but have not been baptized, you may come by statement and be baptized.

If you have already received Christ and have been baptized, but are not a member of another church, you may come by your statement that you are a believer.

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You may also visit our church website @
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