

# CHURCH FOR DUMMIES

## Part 4: WHAT'S THE POINT?

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When asked why they attend church many people respond by saying...

"I go to church to worship God."

The implication is that worship is an event attended by worshippers at a particular time and location.

This thinking is supported by phrases such as:

- The church where we worship is the house of God.
- Genuine worship leads us into God's presence.
- We encounter God through praise and worship.
- The worship service starts at 11:00.

### So What's The Problem?

All these statements are built on Old Testament (covenant) theology.

Under the old covenant, before Christ's death, burial and resurrection, God's spirit lived in places (tabernacles, temples) and worshippers had to attend at those places to worship God.

**Hebrews 9:1-10** "Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up... and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order."

Under the new covenant, after Christ's death, burial and resurrection, God's spirit lives in people. (believers)

**1 Cor. 3:16-17** "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple."

Since God's Spirit lives in believers, making them His temple (place of worship), new covenant worship can't be entering God's presence by attending an event at a particular time and location.

**John 4:19-21** "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."

### What Is New Testament Worship?

**John 4:23-24** "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth."

### What is worship in Spirit and Truth?

**Romans 12:1-2** "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. "

Spiritual, truthful, New Testament worship isn't an event you attend it is living daily in a way that honors God.

### So why attend a church worship service?

Some might say... To Pray To Learn To Praise

Others might say... To Glorify God

To glorify God is certainly the general purpose for attending church, but it's also the general purpose for eating lunch.

**1 Cor. 10:31** "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

From the Bible's perspective everything in a believer's life should serve two purposes: the general purpose (to glorify God) and the specific purpose (to meet a need).

	General Purpose	Specific Purpose
Lunch Service	Glorify God	<u>Nourish the Body</u>
Church Service	Glorify God	<u>Hebrews 10:24-25</u>

**Hebrews 10:24-25** "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 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."

So the specific purpose in attending a church service is encouraging each other toward love and good deeds which means...

Encouraging each other to live daily in a way that honors God which means...

Encouraging each other to practice spiritual, truthful, New Testament lifestyle worship.