



“tell us again why you don’t attend the services of the church!”

**GRANT COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST
JANUARY 23, 2011**

Note: The theme of this week’s bulletin is the **importance of church attendance. We all understand the difference between those who want to attend and can’t and those who simply don’t want to come regularly. There will always be people who understand the need to do all we can to promote the church and help guide the lost to Jesus. There will also always be those who do just the bare minimum to keep their “name on the roll.” The purpose of this bulletin is to encourage both groups. We want to encourage the ones who are here all the time and active in the work of the church to continue and the ones who are doing the bare minimum to grow and increase in your commitment!**

REAL EXCUSES FOR MISSING CHURCH

We all know the difference between a reason and an excuse. **The most creative excuse any one ever gave me for not attending was the lady in Indiana who said, “Preacher we can’t come to church, we are gone so much we don’t ever get to go anyplace!” While I have never been able to top that one, the following are some real excuses that I have personally heard from people when explaining why they couldn’t attend.**

1. I missed church because I had to go fishing.
2. I missed church because there was a sermon in the radio.
3. I had to miss Church because the kids wanted to sleep in.
4. I just had this feeling I shouldn't be there.
5. I've worked all week so I'm too tired to go!
6. The preacher moves around too much.
7. There are too many hypocrites in church.
8. There are too many sinners in church.
9. I'm too young - I'll go when I'm too old to have any more fun.

10. I'm not good enough. (BTW, No one is, that’s why we have grace!)
11. I have nothing to wear. (What do you wear the other 6 days?!)
12. I don't do anything bad, so they have to let me in heaven anyway.
13. My family can get me into heaven after I'm dead.
14. I was forced to go when I was a younger.
15. I’m afraid that I might get saved and have to go all the time!

WHY I ASSEMBLE REGULARLY WITH THE CHURCH

Because the Bible tells me to! *“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Because the governing body of the church has arranged for me to: *“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”* (Hebrews 13:17)

Because I need to hear the lessons: Many members of the church don’t attend regular assemblies. There are folks who were baptized in the past who almost never hear the word preached.

Because I want to go, and I am wanted: *“I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the LORD”* (Psalms 122:1).

Because I need to go, and I am needed ! *“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works”* (Hebrews 10:24).

Because I had rather be here with Christians than anywhere else

Because people are watching me and will follow my example (Matthew 5:16).

Because my soul is strengthened by the teaching (Psalm 119:9-16).

Because my heart is warmed by the spiritual songs as I praise God. (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19).

Because I will be better prepared to meet in discussion those who do not understand the truth (1Peter 3:15).

Because I “*hunger and thirst after righteousness*” (Matt. 5:6).

**“I DON’T MISS BECAUSE OF COMPANY”
Jerry Carmichael**

After some years of unfaithfulness to the Lord, Jean and I were restored to the fold. We decided that once and for all God was going to be first in our lives.

A few short weeks passed and things seemed to be running smoothly. We were welcomed to the fold warmly by fellow Christians. We had begun to feel like we belonged to the family of the local church. We informed non-Christian friends and family members of our decision as well.

One Saturday evening as we were preparing our children for bed, anticipating the next morning’s worship service, a car pulled into the driveway. Some relatives had come for a weekend visit. They informed us that they intended to stay the night and leave sometime the next day. As young, immature Christians we were suddenly thrust into a spiritual dilemma. Our options were obvious.

- 1) Miss the morning service and spend time with our visitors (After all, we would be able to attend the evening service; they would be gone by then).
- 2) Kindly and tactfully explain our commitment to the Lord and tell them that they could either go to services with us or stay at our house until we returned.

I remember the look on their faces to this day, when, before going to bed Saturday night, we explained that we would be leaving the house at 9:30 A.M. the next day to attend bible class and worship service and that they would be welcome to come along or stay until we returned. They were up bright and early the next morning and ready to leave before we left for services.

Years have passed since that Saturday evening. **Word soon spread throughout the family that we would attend worship service even if we had company.** Some family members considered our decision rude and inhospitable. Others commended our commitment, but none ever again

arranged a visit that would interfere with worship service! As we have grown and matured in the faith, we have thanked God many times for our decision that day. It was a boost of confidence to a couple of struggling newcomers to realize that we really could put God first.

What was a spiritual dilemma then, is second nature to us now. We never plan anything that interferes with the assembling together of the saints! We already have an appointment on Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday! It is really not so difficult to make time for the assembly!

Jesus said, *“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me”* (Matthew 10:37, 38).