

Why do we go to Church?

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Have you ever thought or asked yourself why we go to church?

Is it for status or appearance in the community? Is it 'a ticket' in case we happen to die this week and need to get into heaven? Is it through habit – we have always attended church and have carried on into our adult lives? Is it to find out about things going on in our community or even to gossip about people?

Or

Is it to fellowship with others whom you now consider more than friends? To worship the Lord and to thank Him openly for what he has done for you.? Is it to learn something new either about God or yourself – to submit to God in order to enable you to be corrected in your thoughts and actions?

The rules of 'Lockdown' have really made me think about us as a church, and how important you all are to me.

The one thing I am really missing is The Body of Christ – us, collectively as the church. Its only now I realise how strong The Body of Christ really is ; we as the church strengthen each other without even realising it by communicating face to face. For my part, the interaction between us all is like a soothing ointment, it takes the sting out of life, worries and situations I find myself in.

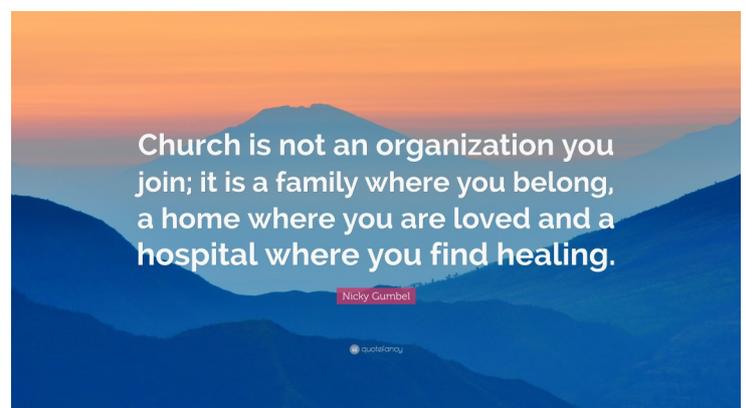
There is always someone who says a kind and encouraging word, or someone who just makes me laugh.



Although Adam spoke with God every day the Lord knew that Adam would not be at his happiest without company and so God made Eve.

- ◆ **I can pray,**
- ◆ **I can read my Bible**
- ◆ **Worship the Lord by putting on a CD**
- ◆ **I can even take communion at home**

But its not quite the same without my church family!!



Mel recently put together a study for us about the different types of people which make up the body of Christ. Currently a lot of us are not doing our normal jobs in church – no-one is setting out the chairs or making tea and coffee, washing up the cups. Serving each other in this way has been suspended whilst the leaders are busy doing what they do in a different format.

- ◆ **Does this make you feel 'redundant'?**
- ◆ **Do you feel anxious about not being able to serve in your normal way?**
- ◆ **Are you finding that your character is more Martha than Mary?**

In other words, now that our normal way of serving each other has been suspended, do we now feel of less value? If so, we should just remember God loves us and you and I are just as important to Him as ever!

We cannot 'work' our way into heaven; it is a free gift ; we only have to believe in Jesus and what he has done for us. **But** we can still 'serve' each other by praying for everyone and the church leaders.

In Mel's study the congregation was compared with different animals and we saw that no-one is more important than the other – just different. Problems can arise when people's attitudes towards different people are not in line with Bible teachings.

Martha may have felt she was more important than Mary?

she was organising the household and the meal and maybe felt she had 'a higher status' than Mary who looked like she was doing nothing.

What Martha was doing was important, but she was possibly doing it from a sense of self-righteousness and not out of love.

Mary on the other hand was simply resting with Jesus, talking with Him and probably praying/listening to Him, getting advice/correction. Feeling happy and contented in His presence.



**So where was your focus
before Lockdown?**

So where was your focus before Lockdown?

- ◆ Was it just on the Sunday weekly service?
- ◆ Or the job/responsibility you had within the church?
- ◆ Are you longing for the day we can be together again so that our normal routines can return **or**
- ◆ Are you enjoying life just as much because your relationship with God is just as strong during the week as it ever was?

Is that not what the Lord Jesus wants from us; for us to fellowship with Him not just on Sundays but every day? And to fellowship with each other and to love and take care of one another every day? **I am looking forward to us all being together again soon, and I certainly think I will appreciate everyone more as I now know how empty my life is without the body of Christ.**

The one thing that holds us all together is not a building – it's the love, respect and affection we have for one another. All connected through God who is Love.

Love



1 Corinthians 13

13 1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.