

## Why do I need a church home?

I understand that when I was baptized I was added to the church by God. I am now part of His family. Adopted and blessed with all the rights and expectations of a child in a new family. It just makes sense that I should want to spend time with this family. There are so many places that claim to be right I just don't know where to start!

## What should I look for in my church home?

Every church cannot be right because there are so many differences and there is no way for me to visit every one and check them out. I must have some things to look for that are important.

### Is it Bible based?

**2 Timothy 3:16-17(NIV)** *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

**Ephesians 4:4-5(NIV)** *There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*

It just makes good sense that if there a single standard that should be the Bible. Not that I want to distrust what every person says but, after all,

this is MY soul at stake here. I want to be sure.

### Do they preach and teach the truth in LOVE?

**Ephesians 4:15(NIV)** *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.*

If everything is done out of love it will be obvious. I will be able to feel it and see it. Sometimes the whole tone of what is said can be more powerful than the words. Telling me what I need to do in a loving way is so much more effective than yelling at me.

### Do they try to make me afraid of failure or feel guilty all the time?

**1 John 4:18(NIV)** *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

I really don't want to be in a place that uses guilt and threats to make me do something or not do something. If I know what is right I can choose to do it on my own. As long as I am loved then I will feel comfortable. God said He loved me enough to send Jesus to die for me (John 3:16-17). The church must show that also, right?

### Do they welcome me where I am?

I am NOT perfect. I don't know everything yet. I may not act or dress like everyone else there. And I sure

don't want folks to look down on me or talk about me when I leave.

**James 2:8-9(NIV)** *If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.*

### Will I fit in and feel like I am a worthwhile part?

**Romans 12:4-5(NIV)** *Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

I want and need to feel needed. I don't want to just show up and leave. If this is really "family" I know I want to do my part. It may not be a big part yet but I will grow!

### Is this a place where I can come to worship in spirit and truth?

**John 4:24(NIV)** *God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.*

I know that I am to worship all the time (Romans 12:1) and I know that when the rest of my church family is together I should be there also (Hebrews 10:25). I also know that Jesus told me to worship in a correct and passionate way.

Is it a place where the people will help me and my family get to heaven?

**Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)** *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.*  
I am new at this "Christian" thing, or maybe just now finding my way back home. I will need a lot of encouragement from a lot of people.

Is this more like a social meeting or hospital?

**Luke 4:18(NIV)** *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,*

When Jesus said this he was telling the disciples and those listening why He came. If I am to follow Him and worship Him then being in a gathering where I can find healing is exactly what I am looking for!

This is not just about a "feeling" or being entertained. My church home must be a loving, serving, praising, praying, motivating, communing together FAMILY of God, My Father!

Here is my "check list":

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We are here to help you!

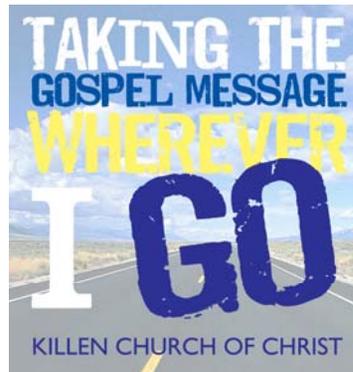
We would sincerely like the opportunity to talk with you more about this subject and share what God's word says about it. As Jesus said, **John 8:32(NIV)** " *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*"

This is presented with love by:

We simply seek to share the message of love, hope, forgiveness and peace found through Jesus Christ.

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