



unlike Satan, who will attempt to drive you away
John 10:4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him; for they know his voice.

III. WHY NOT TO LEAVE A CHURCH

1. You are running away from a person or situation. Keep in mind, God does not want us to run away from our fears, and would not put us up against something we could not handle through him.
2. Someone is trying to get you to go somewhere else thru need or manipulation. Remember that we are lead places by the Holy Spirit, not other mortal beings.
3. The glitter is more attractive in another ministry. There will always be something exciting going on, but remember that initial excitement does not mean continued success.
4. Because of a better job or business elsewhere. Opportunities may arise to move up in the business world, but do not sacrifice the spiritual life of you or your family for the temporary gain of more money. Before you leave, make sure you can continue to grow spiritually.

2. When to Stay in Your Current Church would do more harm than good because of:
 - a. Unwillingness on your part to forgive or move on from an issue. Genesis 13:8-9
 - b. Extreme doctrinal Disagreements. Amos 3:3
 - c. Abusive and Harsh leadership that cannot be reasoned with. Jer. 10:21



SOME PRACTICAL TIPS FOR LEAVING A CHURCH

- Don't rush. Make sure you are making the right choice.
- NEVER just leave the church.
- Set up an appointment with the pastor to explain your situation. Arrange (if leadership is willing) for the entire church to bless you with prayer as you leave. This will help the members of the community feel connected to you in this difficult time.
- Leave the door open, and don't "burn any Bridges." You never know where God may lead you in the future.

IV. WHEN IT IS TIME TO MOVE ON:

1. God is calling you to another church. I was always told growing up "Don't leave a job until you have another one to go to." This applies to our spiritual life as well. Wait for God to "lead" you to a church,

*Keep a positive attitude about where you are going!
God has made us all different.
Enjoy and embrace the variety
God gives us.*



SHOULD
I STAY ^{OR}
SHOULD
I GO?



Understanding Relationships and
How They Affect your Local Church

PASTOR KEN STRONG
Father's Arms Fellowship
1400 Main St., Scott City, MO 63780
(573) 264-4233
www.fathersarmsfellowship.org



I. COMMITMENT TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

Most people *never commit themselves* to their church to the best of their abilities. Here's why:

1. Fear of Failure. Whether it be past churches, relationships, or jobs.
2. No Example of commitment in their current home, or when they were growing up.
3. Fear of being used by those around them without their knowledge.
4. Fear of Rejection.
5. Previous bad church experiences with leadership, cliques, etc.

If you are having any of these issues:

- Talk to your current or potential pastor about how you feel.
- Make sure you are in a church that will enhance your spiritual growth.
- Reach out to friends to help overcome these rough areas of your life.

WHY SHOULD YOU COMMIT TO YOUR LOCAL CHURCH?

Commitment shows character and loyalty to a craft or organization. Some reasons why your local church specifically benefits from your commitment are:

1. We are members of one another.
Rom 12:4 Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each needs all the others. (TLB)

2. We are commanded to:
 - Care for one another. 1 Cor. 12:25(nas)
 - Meet with one another for encouragement. Heb. 10:25, Neh. 10:39, Acts 20:7, Matt 18:20
 - Work and serve together Mark 10:35-45
 - Give Financially. Mal.3:10-11, 2Cor 9:6-7
 - Submit to spiritual authority. Heb. 13:7 submit = from 2 gk. Words *hupo*-under and *eiko*- to yield or surrender. God has placed authorities over us to watch for us-we must choose to submit-it can't be forced.



Be Careful!

Separating yourself from your local church can be harmful to your health. (Jude 1:18-19 - 18 How that they told you there should be mockers *in the last time*, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. 19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit) (KJV)



BEFORE YOU JOIN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

- Make sure you are comfortable with the pastor and church philosophy
- Take any membership classes and ask questions!
- Make sure you agree with the basic foundations of the church
- Ask yourself: "Is God leading me here?"
- Make sure you are willing to be an active member
- Get involved outside of church services. Acts 2:42

II. CONFRONTATION ISSUES AND COMMITMENT

The Bible teaches us to admit our problems and work through them with confidence and faith. True commitment means facing our problems maturely as a disciple of the Lord and overcoming any problems before they defeat us. Many people shy away from confrontation in their lives, which pushes them away from their local churches and healthy relationships in the body of Christ.

Biblical Confrontation

- Always go alone to the person with whom you have a problem. Matt 18:15. If at first you are not received, find an unbiased mediator to help facilitate conversation. It is crucial to talk through your problems.
- Don't assume you are always right. There are two sides to every story. Through listening to the other person, you may realize you agree on more than you originally thought!
- Be careful *what* you hear. Mark 4:24.
- Be careful *how* you hear. Luke 8:18.
- Take the first step in the restoration process. Be the bigger person and seek out conversation. Be committed to working through problems, not around them. Matt. 5:23-24 & 44-48, Eph. 4:26-32
- Don't be a busy body. Do not try and solve everyone's problems. Instead, focus on bettering yourself and your family. Proverbs 20:3, Luke 6:41 (tlb), 1Pet. 4:15
- Don't allow others to control your life. Focus on what you can do for yourself, realize that we have the freedom to make our own choices. Do not let the small insults or quarrels from others ruin the positive impact you can have on the world.

Dealing with problems can make staying committed to our local church a healthy and beneficial experience. Work through problems ahead of time to maximize opportunities for growth.



Matt 16:18 ... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (KJV)