

Review:

Can you divorce your faith from your view and participation in the church?

4 Improper Views of the Church

- I don't need church. It's just me and Jesus.
- I go to church when I feel like it.
- Church is important. I go to church, so they can feed me spiritually; so I can do my individual ministry where I work and live.
- I am a part of the church and I serve on the weekends, but when I am done my service is over!

Reminder: It's God's church and God's idea. Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:10-12 (ESV)

God gave the church...leaders and people.

- Purpose of those leaders is to lead and to equip people for service.
- Spiritual maturity is expressed through service in the body.
- Spiritual maturity is increased through service.
- The body is built up and glorifies God as each of us does our part.

TODAY: You are saved for a purpose.**Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)**

⁸God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago."

1st: Notice you are saved for good works, not because of them.

- **Galatians 5:6; Romans 1:5 (ESV)**

2nd: Notice you are God's masterpiece.

- What makes us His masterpiece? We are knitted together by Him. **Psalm 139:13-16 (ESV)**
- His Holy Spirit was given to us as a gift. His dwells within us. **Acts 2:37-39 (ESV); John 14:15-17 (ESV)**
- God has given us special spiritual giftings/abilities to be used **FOR** the church.
 - ✓ **1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12**—lists of different gifts.
 - ✓ The point: It's not like a football team with only 11 positions.
 - ✓ More like an alphabet that can be shaped into many different words and uses. **Exodus 28:3; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (ESV)**

3rd: Notice God has things for you to do.

- Saved for a purpose.
- Holy: meaning pure and righteous
- Set apart for His work, not your own.
- I need to be set apart. It doesn't happen on its own. **2 Timothy 2:20-21; Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)**

Maturity:

Out of grateful recognition of all He has done for me, I surrender my life to His will (**my time, money, abilities, gifts**). With His help, I will organize my life in such a way that I can glorify God by serving Him in His mission. I acknowledge that I am saved for His purposes and I will seek with all my heart to discover them and live them out.