

Life-Changing Reasons

Why You Should Only Attend a Purpose-Driven Church:



Forward

In an age of comfortable, passive Christianity, this essay delivers a timely and urgent call for believers to embrace a fully purpose-driven life and church. It challenges readers to move beyond routine religion into radical, **faithful obedience** to Jesus Christ.

This essay's clear direction includes:

- Explaining why a purpose-driven life is essential for every faithful Christian
- Explaining why choosing a purpose-driven church is essential.
- Highlighting the spiritual dangers of attending passive, non-purpose-driven churches
- Outlining practical steps to take when a church becomes lukewarm or unfaithful
- Defining the marks of a healthy, purpose-driven church
- Emphasizing the necessity of leaders as active role models, not just preachers



Why a Purpose-Driven Life Matters for Every Believer

Living a purpose-driven life is essential to authentic Christian faith. It means intentionally aligning your daily decisions and actions with God's will, rather than drifting through life based on personal desires or worldly pressures. Here's why it matters:

1. **Follow Christ's Voice** "My sheep hear my voice... and they follow me." (John 10:27). Purpose begins with listening to and obeying Jesus.
2. **Self-Denial and Sacrifice** "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24) True discipleship requires dying to self-centered living.
3. **Stay Close to Jesus** "If anyone serves me, he must follow me... the Father will honor him." (John 12:26) Purpose keeps you near Christ and brings God's honor.
4. **Imitate Christ** "Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked." (1 John 2:6) Genuine faith actively imitates Jesus' life of love, holiness, and obedience.
5. **Shine as Light** "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) A purpose-driven life makes your faith visible and draws others to God.

Summary: A purpose-driven Christian life is not optional — it is the natural result of **genuine faith**. It means following Jesus, denying self, serving Him, imitating His ways, and shining as light in a dark world. **Remember, Your New Life after surrender is not about you.** It's about glorifying God.



What Happens When a Faithful Christian Starts Attending a Non-Purpose-Driven Church?

It depends on the church and how long you stay, **but the spiritual effects can be significant.** A non-purpose-driven church typically features shallow teaching, little emphasis on discipleship, holiness, self-denial, or mission, and often prioritizes entertainment, feel-good messages, or social activities over calling believers to follow Jesus fully.

Common Effects Over Time:

1. **Spiritual Stagnation** — Growth plateaus as challenging preaching fades, cooling the fire in your walk with God. **Romans 12:11** Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion.”
2. **Weakened Discipleship & Compromise** — Without teaching on sacrifice and holiness, standards gradually lower and worldly thinking creeps in (**Matthew 16:24, 10:38**).
3. **Distant Relationship with Christ** — Jesus becomes talked about but not actively followed daily, weakening intimacy (**John 12:26**).
4. **Conformity to the World** — Easier to blend in rather than be transformed and imitate Christ (**1 John 2:6**).
5. **Diminished Influence** — Your light as salt and light in the world fades (**Matthew 5:14-16**).

Not every church that avoids the “**purpose-driven**” label is unfaithful or deficient. Many traditional, smaller, or non-programmatic churches remain deeply biblical

and may even be more faithful in certain respects. The decisive question is not whether a church uses modern terminology or a specific strategy, but whether it fulfills the biblical calling of the Church.

A faithful church preaches **the full counsel of God (Acts 20:27)** — including the necessity of repentance and faith, the pursuit of holiness, serious discipleship and spiritual growth, the regular administration of the sacraments/ordinances, genuine fellowship, and the outward mission of making disciples of all nations (**Matthew 28:19-20**). If these core biblical realities are consistently taught, practiced, and prioritized, the church is fulfilling its God-given purpose, regardless of its style, size, or methodology.

The problem arises when a church — whether contemporary or traditional — systematically avoids or downplays these essentials: when the gospel is softened, holiness is neglected, discipleship is replaced by mere attendance, or evangelism is absent. In such cases, the issue is not the absence of a “purpose-driven” framework, **but unfaithfulness to Scripture itself.**

Important Balance: The key issue is whether a church preaches the full counsel of God — repentance, holiness, discipleship, including outreach/evangelism, and mission — or avoids it.

Recommendation: “Pray for wisdom”. **CHOOSE A CHURCH THAT:**

- Preaches the Bible **clearly and boldly**
- Calls people to **radical/faithful obedience** to Christ
- **Equips believers** for their God-given purpose
- Holds members **accountable** to holy living
- Leadership **actively participates** with Outreach and Missions.
- Encouragement and Equipment of **Home Bible Study Groups.**

You were created to follow Jesus with purpose — **don’t settle for less.**



Practical Steps When Your Church Becomes Lukewarm or Passive

A passive or lukewarm church (often called “**shallow**,” entertainment-focused, or lacking bold biblical teaching) can slowly weaken even a committed believer. Jesus warned about lukewarm faith (**Revelation 3:15-16**), and Scripture calls us to pursue a purposeful, obedient walk with Him.

Here are biblical, practical steps to take:

1. Pray Earnestly for Wisdom and Guidance

Start with God, not complaints or quick decisions. Ask Him to show you the true condition of the church and what He wants you to do.

“But if any of you lack wisdom, you should pray to God, who will give it to you; because God gives generously and graciously to all.” (**James 1:5**)

Pray also for the church leaders and congregation.

2. Examine the Church Against Scripture

Quietly evaluate what is being taught and practiced. Does the church emphasize:

Following Jesus wholeheartedly (**John 10:27**)?

Self-denial and taking up your cross (**Matthew 16:24; Matthew 10:38**)?

Imitating Christ's life (**1 John 2:6**)?

Serving and staying close to Jesus (**John 12:26**)?

Test everything:

“Test everything; hold fast what is good.” (**1 Thessalonians 5:21**)

If the teaching avoids repentance, holiness, discipleship, evangelism, or mission, your spirit may rightly feel unsettled.

3. Speak Privately and Humbly to Leadership

Don't gossip or complain to others first. Go to the pastor or elders with a humble, loving attitude and share your concerns with specific biblical examples.

Follow the **Matthew 18:15-17** pattern for addressing issues. Speak the truth in love (**Ephesians 4:15**). Many passive churches stay that way because no one gently challenges them.

4. Serve and Try to Bring Positive Change

While you're there, be a faithful example. Shine as light instead of withdrawing immediately.

“You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (**Matthew 5:14, 16**)

Get involved in ways that promote deeper discipleship. Sometimes God uses one committed person to stir renewal. If There Is No Change, prayerfully Consider Leaving

5. If the church remains passive after prayer and loving confrontation — especially if it's harming your spiritual growth or leading you toward compromise — it may be time to leave.



Conclusion

Attending a purpose-driven church is far more than a preference — it is one of the most important decisions you will make in your walk with Christ. In a world filled with comfortable, passive Christianity, a biblical, purpose-driven church keeps the fire of your faith alive, challenges you to grow, equips you for your God-given mission, and calls you to radical/faithful obedience rather than routine religion.

Your spiritual health depends heavily on the environment you place yourself in. A church that preaches the full counsel of God, calls believers to self-denial and holiness, actively makes disciples, and equips the saints for ministry will strengthen your walk with Jesus. On the other hand, remaining in a lukewarm or entertainment-focused church over time can quietly cool your passion, weaken your convictions, and dim your light in a dark world.

Jesus did not call us to drift through life or settle for shallow faith. **He called us to follow Him fully**, deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and bear fruit that lasts.

Don't settle for less.

Pray earnestly, examine every church by the standard of Scripture, and commit yourself only to a fellowship that is truly on fire for God's purposes. **Your life is not your own** — it belongs to Christ. Choose a church that helps you live like it.

The time to embrace a purpose-driven life and church is now. Your obedience today will echo into eternity.

Will you answer the call?



