

Why I Don't Go to Church



“The Church Is Irrelevant”



Does the charge of irrelevance carry any force for the church at large and at Mount Zion in particular?



- Sometimes sermons are boring.



As Paul spoke on and on, a young man named Eutychus, sitting on the windowsill, became very drowsy. Finally, he fell sound asleep and dropped three stories to his death below.—Acts 20:9 (NLT)



- The language in church can be difficult to understand.



- Most music in church hymnals was written between 1500 and 1950 while most people listen to music written since the 1970's.



- Sometimes we focus on things that are unrelated to people's everyday lives.



[Jesus] said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions.”—Mark 7:9 (NIV)



How can we keep from falling into the tradition trap?



- Focus on the mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ



- Train workers in the church to keep them current



- Evaluate the effectiveness of our ministries



- Be willing to let ministries die and birth new ones



➤ Plan for the future



- Refuse to rely on past religious experience



At the root of the charge of irrelevance is the assumption that the message of Scripture is out-dated and insignificant.

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" .

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.—Hebrews 13:1-8 (NIV-2010)



- Today's church must communicate this timeless message in a timely manner.



This week invite someone to come to church with you. If they say that the church is irrelevant, do this:



1) Explain that churches offer different styles of worship because different people enjoy different approaches.



2) Most of all share how essential Jesus is to you.