

How To Find A Healthy Church Home

After accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior, this is probably the most important step you can take to becoming spiritually mature.

A Christian isn't just a believer; you're also a believer. A healthy church is a place where you can find and fulfill God's five purposes for your life: belonging to a group of believers, worshipping God, maturing in your faith, serving God and others and finally learning to share God's love with people on the outside.

There are a lot of great churches; however, not all churches are Christian and not all Christian churches are healthy, so you need to put some thought into how to choose a church. Before you join a church you need to check out four things:

- 1. Its statement of faith.** In other words what does it believe? This is key and it determines if a church is "Christian" or not. You can access our statement of faith by visiting www.saddleback.com and clicking the link called "What We Believe" under the "About" menu. I'm also attaching a printed copy for easy reference. Every solid Christian church will have a statement of faith detailing what that church believes.
- 2. Its style of worship.** Ask yourself "Does the worship style help me feel God's presence?" When you join a church, once you've joined it, don't try to change the style. Just find one that fits your style. When you're looking for a church you need to ask two things, "Is this church right for me?" and "Am I right for this church?"
- 3. Its strategy.** What does it want to do? Take a little time and find out the visions, the goals, and the objectives of the church. A healthy church follows the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) by welcoming new members and evangelizing the community. A healthy church will also encourage its members to serve others by volunteering.
- 4. Its structure** – How is it organized? Ask yourself, "Is there a sense of freedom at this church?" because the Bible says, "*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*" 2 Cor 3:17 Find out if the church you're considering has small groups. Small groups are a place where you can learn to relate to people?"

Now, go find a church and join it. Be sure you attend weekly services and give back to your church by volunteering. Don't hop around, be committed. The church is a family. It's not a building, club, organization, institution or a religion. It's a family. It's God's family. When you commit your life to Jesus Christ, you become part of a family and every believer needs a spiritual family to belong to and that's why you need a church home.

God Bless,
Pastor Rick

About God

Statement of Faith of Saddleback Church "What We Believe"

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. Genesis 1:1,26,27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

About The Bible

The Bible is God's word to all men. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5)

About Man

Man is made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. He is the supreme object of God's creation. Although man has tremendous potential for good, he is marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates man from God. Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2

About Eternity

Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are places of eternal existence. John 3:16; John 2:25; John 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; 1 John 5:11-12; Matthew 25:31-46

About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords. Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13

About Salvation

Salvation is a gift from God to man. Man can never make up for his sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can man be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

About Eternal Security

Because God gives man eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives this security. John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10,14; 1 Peter 1:3-5

About The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily. 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:1

If you want a healthy church, avoid any church that does not accept the Bible as God's **complete** word. It's not the Bible plus our little book. It's not the Bible plus denominational traditions. It's not the Bible plus what some leader in the past said. It's just the Bible. The Bible is God's word!