

Answer Key:

Just the facts...

- 50%
- 32%
- irrelevant / hypocrisy
- 29%
- 25%
- 20%
- 4,000 / 7000

Today...

- 50%
- 60%

Why this decline?

- customized worldview
- syncretism
- crucial
- relationships

Why Church...

- identifies
- early
- Commitments
- worth

Change the World one person at a time

- Invest
- Invite
- Include

Why don't people go to Church anymore?

Hebrews 10:25 NCV

"You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other. Do this even more as you see the day coming."

Introductory Statement

About 4,500 Protestant churches closed in 2019... with about 3,000 new churches opening, according to Lifeway Research. It was the first time the number of churches in the US had not grown since the evangelical firm started studying the topic... broader trend of Americans turning away from Christianity, researchers say the closures will only have accelerated.

Just the facts...

- Church attendance in America began to modestly decline in the late-1940s (from a high of 76%), but that trend accelerated rapidly over the past two decades – dropping below _____ for the first time in 2021.
- According to one survey _____% of respondents who had left the church said they did so because church members “seemed too judgmental or hypocritical,”

- Another survey states that _____% people said they “did not feel connected at church,”
- Another survey said “_____ % said they disagreed with their church’s stance on political and social issues.”
- People say, the church is _____ (why would anyone go?) and full of _____.
- According to the Hartford Institute of Religion Research, more than 40 percent of Americans “say” they go to church weekly. As it turns out, however, less than _____ percent are actually in church.
- Finally thought, somewhere between _____ and _____ churches close their doors every year.

Top 25 Reasons people don’t go to Church

1. Church lasts too long.
2. Fear of being judged.
3. Church is boring.
4. They only preach hell & damnation.
5. They only want your money.
6. The church is filled with hypocrites.
7. I have been hurt in the church.
8. I don’t trust the pastors.
9. Church is like a cult (what’s a cult?)
10. They don’t even preach about Jesus.
11. I hate church folks but love God.
12. It is an organized religion.
13. Church is a big show.
14. Church has changed
15. Church has become political.
16. Does very little for their community.
17. My children’s needs are not being met.
18. I don’t feel any closer to God after going.
19. No one knows my name.
20. They only care about the numbers.

21. It feels more like jail.
22. They talk down to their members.
23. It is fake.
24. I just don't want to go!
25. Have not found the "right church" (back to square one, are you looking?)

Today...

- Pew Research projects that in 2070, Christians will likely make up less than _____ the US population.
- Currently, _____ percent of people say they are Christian.

Why this decline?

The decline in church membership appears to be primarily a result of more Americans expressing no religious preference.

- Most Americans blend their beliefs to create "a

_____ " that is far from biblical as the country is in a spiritual "crisis."

- _____, the combination of different forms of belief or practice

In fact, every single decision that you make, and you make hundreds of them if not thousands of decisions every single day — every one of those flows through your worldview. The choices that you make are a result of what you believe, as described by your worldview.

- A person's worldview is _____ to defining who [they] are, and how [they] live, remember **a person will always do what they believe.**

To follow Jesus, one must be a disciple, representative, and member. Following Jesus is more than just believing in him, it is belonging. Many see the church as a building or an event, but more than that, it is a family in relationship with God. There is a significant difference between attending a church service and being a member of a church family.

- The number one reason to encourage Christians to find a good church is because the Bible instructs us to be in _____ with other believers.

Almost every time the word "church" is used in the Bible it refers to a local, visible congregation."

Why Church...

The church is important because it reveals Christ, even as Christ reveals God in human flesh.

- A Church _____ you as a genuine believer.
- The Church is God's _____ instrument to reach the lost and share His love with them.

The Church is God's agenda for the world!

- The Church is a living, growing body that requires many _____.

You were created for a specific role, in the local church

- When its members grow strong in Christ and are able to reach others, all the effort is _____ it.

Romans 10:14 GWT

"...How can they believe in him if they have not heard his message?

How can they hear if no one tells the Good News?"

If you really want your church to grow, stop trying to attract people—start trying to engage people.

Change the World one person at a time.

Personal evangelism is one of the most effective methods of sharing the Gospel with friends, family and strangers.

Luke 19:10 NIV

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Do this...

- _____
- _____
- _____

**What counts is what you do with what you learned.
So, take it to the streets!**