



Four Reasons I am Thankful For The Church

As a member of the Millennial generation, I am painfully aware that many in my age group are leaving the church. While I certainly understand why life in the church can be difficult and even frustrating at times, I love the church so much that I have devoted my life to her and to her mission. Here are four of the reasons I am thankful for the church.

The church taught me about Jesus. I do not remember a time when I did not know about Jesus. That is primarily because all throughout my childhood, the church was a major part of my life. The church – which includes my parents – taught me about Jesus and why I should love Him.

My parents read me Bible stories. I attended Bible classes on Sundays and Wednesdays. I sat in a pew every Sunday, hearing (even if not always actively listening) to sermons and singing songs. I went to church camps, youth rallies, and even a few gospel meetings. The church was as much a part of my life as my physical family.

I don't understand people who resent being "drug to church" as a child. I can't even fathom feeling that way. The church introduced me to Jesus and for that, I will forever be thankful.

The Holy Spirit ministers to me through the church. I believe Scripture teaches that the Spirit of God equips each member of the body to minister to the rest of the body in a particular way. Although He equips people differently today than He did in the first century. I believe this statement is still true, "to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7).

When my brothers and sisters encourage me, comfort me, teach me, or admonish me, the Holy Spirit is working through them for my good. The Spirit gives life to the body of Christ and empowers the body to be the hands, feet, and mouth of Jesus in the world today. God has graciously given each member a gift and those gifts have often been employed to serve me (1 Peter 4:10-11)

It is wonderful to have shoulders to cry on and arms to wrap around you when you are hurting, to have people teach you things you had not previously known or considered, and to have people share with you when you're in need. Those have been just a few of my experiences in the church, both from the giving and receiving side. Continued on page 3

