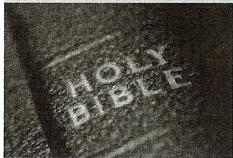


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Perry Hill Road Bulletin

Christians Without Churches?

Over the past few years a trend has increased among people, especially Americans: the idea that people can be good Christians without being part of a church. Many people will recognize that Jesus is the Messiah and Lord, but yet want nothing to do with any church. This attitude fits with the independent streak that marks most Americans. Many also feel that churches are just trying to get money out of people, and they do not see the value or relevance in being part of a church.

It is too often true that churches are not living up to the call of Jesus Christ. Some churches do not teach the Bible at all, and other churches favor their traditions over what the Bible teaches. Too many other churches teach the truths of the Bible and yet do not show the love and community that God desires. Do these difficulties, however, mean that we can or should be Christians without being part of a church?

We must first understand that there can be no such thing as a "churchless Christian." In [Ephesians 4:4-5](#), we read that there is "one body", as assuredly as there is "one faith" and "one Lord." In [Ephesians 5:29-30](#) (and [Colossians 1:18](#)), Paul identifies that "one body" as the church; this is the body for which He gave His life ([Ephesians 5:25-27](#)). Anyone who is not a part of this "universal church" is separated from Christ, and will not be saved! A Christian, then, that is entirely "churchless" is no Christian, and has no part in the resurrection of life!

Is it possible for a Christian to be part of the "universal" church without being identified with a local church? The Scriptures give us no reason to believe that such is possible except temporarily, such as being converted while traveling.

God desires for His people to act in certain ways, and many of these actions require a person to be part of a local church of fellow believers. Continued.....

