

# CALVARY HEIGHTS

August 22, 2013



What does it mean to be a "member" of a church?

## OUR NEXT SERMON SERIES: I Am A Church Member

By Pastor Matt Higgins

What does it mean to be a "member" of a church? God has placed believers in local churches to serve, to care for others, to pray for leaders, to learn, to give and – in some cases – to die for the sake of the Gospel.

Based on Lifeway research from 2004 of 2010, nine out of ten churches in America are declining or growing at a pace that is slower than that of their communities. Churches are losing ground

in their own backyards. The unfortunate fact is that many churches are weak because we have members who have turned the meaning of membership upside down. It's time to get that right. It's time to become a church member as God intended.

Join us for worship beginning **September 18, 2013 at 10:45AM** as our pastor will be preaching from several passages in

Ephesians to discover what being part of a church actually means. In conjunction with this sermon series, every church member will receive a **FREE** copy of Thom Rainer's new book *I Am A Church Member*, and every small group will engage in discussion regarding the concept of church membership.



## FALL SMALL GROUPS

By Pastor Matt Higgins

We want to encourage you to check out one of our **Fall Small Groups** that last from the week of **September 8 through November (they last for just 10-12 weeks)**. Small Groups are a short-term commitment with lasting impact!

Small Groups are groups of 15 or so people that meet together each week to learn about the Bible, grow and have fun while getting a chance to meet new people! On Sunday morning at 9:30AM, there will also be Small Groups available for our youth and children. On Wednesday evening at 6:30PM, there will be our Children in Action program for our children and Reveal Youth Group for our youth.

**Sign-ups begin the week of August 18.** You will have an opportunity to sign-up online and at a Sunday Service. If you sign up online, you can anticipate a call or e-mail from our church staff.

Here are our upcoming Small Groups for the Fall Semester:

### **“Young At Heart” Class**

*Sundays @ 9:30AM in Fellowship Hall Building*

Led by Carl Parker

Upcoming Topic: The Gospel of John

### **MasterWork Class**

*Sundays @ 9:30AM in Sanctuary Building*

Led by Reathel & Paula Miller

Upcoming Topic: *Basic Christianity* by John Stott

### **Steak & Taters Class**

*Sundays @ 9:30AM in Sanctuary Building*

Led by Michael Pratt; Leah Pratt & Brice Giesbrecht

Upcoming Topic: Basic Theology

### **Not A Fan (Wednesday Group)**

*Wednesdays @ 6:30PM in Sanctuary Building*

Led by Pastor Matt Higgins

Upcoming Topic: *Not A Fan* by Kyle Idleman

### **Not A Fan (Thursday Group)**

*Thursdays @ 6:30PM at Higgins' home*

Led by Pastor Matt Higgins

Upcoming Topic: *Not A Fan* by Kyle Idleman



## ARE YOU A PART-TIME CHRISTIAN?

By Trevin Wax, Managing Editor at Lifeway Christian Resources

Taken from the blog of The Gospel Coalition

Geoff and Christine are thirty-something churchgoers who love Jesus and love their three kids. They consider themselves faithful members of New Life Community Church.

Their oldest is about to be in the youth group, and their youngest is finally out of diapers. Christine has been involved in the kids' ministry through the years. Geoff is a deacon.

But they are part-timers when it comes to church attendance, and they never set out to be.

They are not alone.

[Recent statistics](#) show that an increasing number of evangelicals who are firm in their faith are flabby in their practice of actually gathering with their brothers and sisters in worship. It's the part-time syndrome, and it can sneak up on any of us.

Let's go back to Geoff and Christine. There are 52 Sundays a year, and last year, they attended a worship gathering on 28 of those Sundays. (That's an average of about twice a month.) What happened?

- **Vacation:** To maximize his allotted days, Geoff took the family to the mountains during the kids' spring break, stretching over two weekends (one of which happened to be Easter!). There was the

summer beach vacation, another stretch of a week and two weekends, and then a fall getaway. Total = 5 Sundays.

- **Sports:** Their oldest son is on a travel soccer team. Many of the games are on weekends, and they believe it would be a better testimony to be among unbelievers on Sunday mornings rather than let down the team. Total = 9 Sundays.
- **Sickness:** With their youngest child going to preschool, the family seems more susceptible to illnesses than before, and sickness always seems to hit on the weekends. Total = 3 Sundays.
- **Guest Preacher:** When Pastor Jon is out of town, Geoff and Christine usually take the weekend off. They never like the guest speaker as much as Pastor Jon. Total = 3 Sundays.

- **Visiting In-Laws:** Christine's parents come twice a year to spend the weekend with the family. To maximize their time, they usually spend the weekends catching up and doing some shopping. Total = 2 Sundays.
- **Holiday:** Thanksgiving weekend, and the week in between Christmas and New Year's, the family is traveling. Total = 2 Sundays.

Geoff and Christine may be a fictional couple, but their situation is true for many of us. Recently, a church leader told me their most faithful attendees are only in church 2-3 times a month. They basically *expect* churchgoers to be "hit or miss" every week.

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### **Danger #1 – Guilt You Into Going**

Now, there are two wrong ways church leaders might address this issue. The first is to go all Hebrews 10 on everyone and emphasize the importance of the worship gathering, so as to whip people into shape and guilt them into church attendance. Sorry, but this isn't a gospel-centered approach.

We should never take the command of Hebrews 10 about neglecting the church and isolate it from the preceding verses (about the privilege of coming before God in a community of faith that holds to a confession of hope). That's giving the imperative ("Go to church!") without the indicative ("You are welcomed into the throne room of grace with your family in Christ.").

This approach also stresses church as *a place* we go, rather than church as *the people* with whom we gather. It reinforces the idea that the church is a building and leads people to think holiness happens by being present every week.

Lastly, this method could cause people to have a checklist mentality, where we pat ourselves on the back for being in church 48 weeks a year, while neglecting other important matters – like justice and love. Churchgoing isn't necessarily a sign of spiritual health. How many times do you think the Pharisees were absent from the temple?

### **Danger #2 – Avoid the Issue**

The second danger is to be so concerned with the first that we fail to address the imperative in Hebrews 10 at all. In doing so, we ignore the importance of the church as the family of Christ, the people with whom we are to gather and hear the gospel.

Because of our strong distaste for legalistic checklists, we might minimize the counterfeit gods that creep into our lives and vie for our free time. In the desire to avoid legalism, we never mention that a ball can become a Ba'al for some, or that leisure and comfort can become idols that keep us from worshipping the true God with other believers.

In an effort to not guilt people into church attendance, we never make people aware of the fact that *grace* is presented week after week. Guilt is the result of not going to church – not because you feel bad for not living up to God's expectations, but because you're not hearing the message of gospel grace pounded into you week after week.

### **A renewed vision of worship**

The best way to respond is not with guilt or with a false grace, but with the reminder of the purpose of worship. You aren't there to fill up at the gas station (after all, you can get some sort of spiritual sustenance by reading or listening to your preacher's podcasts apart from the body of Christ). This is a distorted view of the purpose of gathering.

The author of Hebrews clues us in. Being with your brothers and sisters is where you are able to stir one another up to love and good deeds. It's the place where the confession of hope is celebrated and put before you and where you are urged to cling to it tightly.

It's not just the content you receive every week that is so formative; it's the act of being together and making the Lord's family your priority. It's similar to a family that gathers every evening for a meal. The value is not in the specifics of your conversation, but the very act of demonstrating your love for each other.

We don't *go* to church because of guilt. We *are* the church because of grace. That's what Geoff and Christine, along with you and I, need to remember.

## GET INVOLVED! @ Calvary Heights

By Pastor Matt Higgins

Summer break is over! That means that our **Children in Action** program and **REVEAL youth group** will begin on **Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 6:30PM**. Children in Action is our missions organization for kids ages 3 through 5th grade. Our kids have tons of fun while they learn about how missionaries share the Gospel around the world. For our teens in 6th-12th grade, our **REVEAL youth group** trains our youth to grow in Christ and share their faith. Join us every Wednesday as we grow in Christ!

We also encourage you to check out our Men's and Women's ministries, which are designed to help you connect with other men and women in the church. Our **Men's Prayer Breakfast** will be held on Saturday, **September 14, 2013 at 9:00AM** at **Forky's**. Our **Beloved Daughters Luncheon** will be held immediately following worship on **September 29, 2013**.



CALVARY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

**532 N. KRISTI ROAD  
MARTINSVILLE, IN 46151**

[www.calvaryheightsbc.org](http://www.calvaryheightsbc.org)

### WEEKLY EVENTS:

#### Sundays:

9:30 AM - Small Groups  
10:45 AM - Worship Celebration  
5:00 PM - Puppet Team Practice  
6:00 PM - Pastor's Bible Study

#### Wednesdays (Fall Schedule - Starting 8/28):

6:30 PM - Children in Action (Kids)  
REVEAL Youth Group (Teens)  
Small Groups (Adults)  
7:30 PM - Worship Team Practice

### MONTHLY EVENTS:

New Member Class - 1st Sunday every month (9:30 AM)  
Prayer Meeting - 1st Monday every month (6:30 PM)

### UPCOMING CHURCH CALENDAR:

August 21 - Back to School Bash (6 PM)  
August 28 - Children in Action & Reveal Youth Group Begins (6:30 PM)  
Sept. 4 - REACH Team Meeting (7:30 PM)  
Sept. 7 - EQUIP Team Meeting (9 AM)  
Sept. 8 - New Member Class (9:30 AM)  
Sept. 8 - Fall Small Groups Begin  
Sept. 8 - Communion & Pitch-In Dinner (Noon)  
Sept. 9 - 1st Monday Prayer Meeting (6:30 PM)  
Sept. 14 - Men's Breakfast (9 AM @ Forky's)  
Sept. 16-17 - Partners In The Harvest Conference (Highland Lakes Campground)  
Sept. 18 - Church Directory Day  
Sept. 22 - SERVE Team Meeting (5 PM)  
Sept. 23 - CONNECT Team Meeting (6:30 PM)  
Sept. 29 - Beloved Daughters Luncheon (Noon)  
Oct. 6 - New Member Class (9:30 AM)  
Oct. 7 - 1st Monday Prayer Meeting (6:30 PM)  
Oct. 13-15 - SCBI Annual Meeting & Pastors Conference (Northside Baptist Church)  
Oct. 25-26 - Women's Ministry "Field Trip" to Beth Moore Conference  
Oct. 30 - Trunk Or Treat (6:30 PM)  
Nov. 3 - New Member Class (9:30 AM)  
Nov. 4 - 1st Monday Prayer Meeting (6:30 PM)