

1. Jesus is there Would you miss a service if Jesus was here in person? Of course not! Well, HE IS!! I Corinthians 14:25 teaches that God is in our assemblies. Hebrews 2:12 describes Jesus singing in the congregation. Matthew 26:29 teaches that Jesus eats the Lord's Supper with those in the kingdom. So the Lord is in our assemblies in a very special sense and we ought to be present with Him.

2. Spiritual things are your top priority Matthew 6:33 admonishes us to put the kingdom and righteousness in first place in our lives. It ought to be the chief concern in all we do. But when a church time comes all other activities should be put on hold, so as to allow that which is specially devoted to God to take precedence.

3. You discourage all the others when you are absent We are told many times in the Bible to do those things which encourage one another. But whenever a member of the family is absent, the rest feel sad. We miss them.

4 No one person is expected to be there any more than another. There is no clergy-laity distinction in a Lord's church. All the members are equal. To say one is "going to church" is not exactly right,

because each member is an integral part of the church. Rather we all gather together in church. Now, if one is expected to attend, then all are. What if all decided they wouldn't come?

5. To be a good example We are called upon by God to be a shining light, a salt-like influence, an example of Christlikeness to all. In attending the church assemblies faithfully, we are a good example to the believers (I Timothy 4:12), to our children (who need to grow up with a routine of church attendance), and to our neighbors (they will see or know of it). It is a open and obvious demonstration of spiritual concerns.

6. To obey God's command to attend Hebrews 10:25 teaches us not to forsake the practice of assembling ourselves together. It is a God-given order. We must not cease.

7. To be strengthened in your faith In the same passage (Hebrews 10:23-25) we learn that stirring up love and good works is involved in attending. We are mutually stimulated to continued faithfulness by our singing, praying, studying, communing, and giving with each other. On the other hand, typically those who absent themselves frequently, continue to do so and generally it gets worse over time. If the

spiritual growth is to take place, we have to be where it is taking place.

#8. To Abide By A Congregational Decision The church has many decisions to make in areas of judgment that affect the group. Until there are bishops appointed in the future, the men lead in deciding matters that have to do with the congregation. We cannot decide anything that Jesus has already decided, neither do we have a right to decide personal matters of judgment (eg. where you live, how you get to work, what you eat, etc.) But there are decisions such as where the church will meet, who will lead our songs, what arrangements will be made for children's classes, etc. that are decided by the church. Included in this list would be how often we meet and the times for those services.

I have met with congregations that met just once, on a Sunday afternoon. I have also met with a group that met every morning Monday through Friday, in addition to the Sunday times and Wednesday evening assemblies. The Lord has left it to each local church to decide these things; whether they meet one, two, three or even more hours on a Sunday, whether or not they meet during the week and on what night if they do, whether they have special meetings (ie. lectureship, singings, etc.) and other such scheduled events. The members then ought to abide

by whatever is the schedule of services for their particular congregation.

Here at Appleton we have **four hours** that are scheduled every week when it is expected that all those who are not providentially hindered from doing so, will attend. Sunday morning - two hours; Sunday p.m. - one hour and Wednesday night - one hour. Now the additional classes that we hold (such as those on Saturday mornings) are not regarded in the same way. It was decided that they are additional studies that the members are encouraged to avail themselves of, by all means, but are not viewed as assemblies of the whole church.

Now I, as a teacher of the Bible, do not have any authority over any one in the church, but I want to try and persuade everyone here to attend all the assemblies because they **want** to. No one can Lord it over you and make you do anything, but we are meant to mutually edify and provoke one another to love and good works. Please come to every service possible.

We are the Lord's church which meets at:

3601 E. Newberry Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Building telephone
920-733-5009

E-mail
wsasser@tds.net

Internet Website
www.appletonchurchofchrist.org

Service Times

Sunday

Bible Classes - 9:30 a.m.
General Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

*The Appleton church of Christ is totally
undenominational*

REASONS YOU SHOULD ATTEND EVERY ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH

