

**▶ Pray together.**  
*"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18v19-20*

When there are special needs inside the church or outside the church we will often pray together as an assembly. Different people will pray.

**? Why do you think we do this?  
What should you do during this time?**

**▶ Preaching**  
*Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 4v2*

**What do you think the sermon is for?  
What should you do during the sermon?**

Preaching is a funny thing, it is not just about listening to a preacher or even the bible, the Holy Spirit speaks straight to you.

**What might He say?**  
During the sermon, make a list of things you need to do, try or change.

**▶ Altar calls**  
At the end of the sermon, sometimes there will be an altar call, an opportunity to respond to what has been said this might be going to the front, or it might be just praying.

**What should you do?  
Why is it important to respond to God?**

**▶ Fellowship.**  
*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2v42*

The service does not end until you walk out the door. Fellowship is as much a part of church and prayer, worship or preaching.

**? Why is fellowship important?  
What should you do during this time?  
What should you do if no one talks to you?  
What should you do if you see someone alone?**

Church is not just about receiving it is also about giving. We believe that all Christians are equal and all are priests. All can know God for themselves without the need to an intermediary. Church is not about pastors it is about community.

**? What is your part in church?  
What might your part in Church be in the future?**

Freedom Christian Church is part of the Assemblies of God NZ inc a family of churches across the country (and nearly 300,000 churches across the world). This is very important to us. It also requires accountability of us.

The Bible describes the Church as Christ's body. He is the Head, and each of us is one small part of His body. We can only live and move when we all play our part, co-operate together and accept the leadership of the Head.

**? What things do you think help build the Church?  
What things do you think destroy the Church?  
Who is the Head of the Church? Colossians 1v18**

Bringing life, hope and freedom to people, communities and nations.

# FREEDOM

## Christian Church

### Why Church?

**\* Jesus said - I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matt 16v18**

**\* Jesus did not just plan to save individuals, he came to build a church. His intention that believers should fellowship together and form churches. Church was Jesus' idea. Church is necessary for the Kingdom of God, and individual believers to grow, without it both are likely to flounder.**

**♥ Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Ephesians 5v25  
Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. Ephesians 5v23**

When the bible uses the word church it only ever uses it of a group of believers it never uses it of a building. Church is who we are, even during the week when we are not together.

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10v25*

**? What does this verse tell us to do?  
Do you think this just means Sunday mornings?**

*What did the early believers feel the need to do? Acts 2v46, 5v12*

The answer is they meet together. It doesn't seem to have been a strongly regulated thing, just something they needed to do.

**? Why do you think they felt the need to meet together?  
What would have happened if they had not formed themselves into groups?**

Church is described as a part of believers' lives throughout the New Testament, the church could not survive or grow without it.


**? How do you feel about going to church?  
What do you want to achieve by being there?**

*For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18v20  
I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalm 122v1*

**What do these verses tell us about Church?**

Church is about meeting with God, worshiping him and growing. It is also about meeting with other Christians.

**? What do you think is likely to happen if you stop going to church?  
Is there anything you find difficult or uncomfortable about church?**

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Pastor Ray Moxham

We need church for a variety of reasons. To grow, to learn, to be challenged, to be encouraged, to take part, to receive spiritual support, to build relationships and to fellowship.



**Which of these do you think is most important?  
Why do you think we need to be challenged?**

Christians are compared in the bible to sheep, (a not entirely flattering metaphor). When a wolf attacks sheep it will always go for the isolated sheep. The isolate sheep is the most vulnerable.

**How does this apply to the Church?**

Christians who operate alone are far more susceptible to discouragement, error and diversion. We need each other. It is when we live together in unity that the Lord blesses us. The idea is that the church can support and protect the individual. That together we can be stronger than our individual parts and that together we can grow more and serve Christ better. This is implied by Hebrews telling us to encourage one another. This is not just to encourage people to attend church, but to encourage them in their faith.



**When a person who attends church hits a crisis what will happen?  
If a person does not attend church and a crisis hits what is likely to happen?**

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6v2*

**What do you think this verse means?**



*"Then will I purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him shoulder to shoulder. Zephaniah 3v9*

**What do you think it means to stand shoulder to shoulder?**

If Hebrews 10v25 warns believers not to neglect church the writer must have been worried that might happen.



**What reason do Christians give for not wanting to attend Church?  
Do you think the enemy wants to stop us from attending church?  
How might he do this?**

When you come to Church you are not doing God or the Pastor a favour. You are doing yourself a favour. Many people skip church when they are tired or down, this is precisely the time we need fellowship most! Regular attendance is necessary for spiritual growth.



Those who stop attending church fall into three categories;

- Those who backslide.
- Those who stagnate and introvert.
- Those who grow and mature becoming active in their faith.

The first group is by far the largest. It takes an outstanding Christian just to hold their own without the support of a church. Even then they tend to be unproductive in their faith. The last group, those who against all the odds pull through, are very few and far between.

The Greek word for church used in the New Testament is the word 'Ekklesia', originally it meant a group of people call out of a town to achieve a special purpose.

**What purposes have we been called out for?**

Things we do in church:



**Worship.**

*Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; Psalm 95v6*

**Collective worship is very important. What is it for?**

Worship is not about us, it is about God. It is about giving God something. But when you worship God can do amazing things in your life, like heal you and speak to you. What is

more when you really get caught up in worship it can be an amazing thing.

**What should you do in worship the worship time?**



**Prophecy/tongues.**

*But everyone who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. 1 Corinthians 14v3*

Prophecy is when someone brings a word from God, maybe a 'picture' or something they believe God wants to say to the people there.



**Why do you think this is important?**

**What should you do when someone prophesies?**

**What should you do if you think you have something from God to give?**



**Pray for people.**

*Pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5v16*

Often in worship or some other time during the service we will give an opportunity for people to come forward for prayer.



**Why do you think we do do this?**

**When should you go up for prayer?**

**If you have a need different from what was mentioned what should you do?**



**Communion.**

*In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Cor 11v25-26*

Communion is a way of remembering what Jesus did for us on the cross and the relationship we have with Him. - It is a time to think, reflect and say thankyou. It is also a time to ask God for forgiveness for anything we have done wrong.

It is only bread and grapejuice but it has very deep meaning. Taking communion is a sacred thing. When we take it Jesus really does work in our lives. Take it in faith.



**What should you do during the communion time?**

**When should you not take communion?**

**Announcements.**

**Ok what do you think the announcements are for?**

**What should you do during them?**



**Offerings.**

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. Malachi 3v10*

It is a biblical principle to give to God. Giving is an act of worship. The bible talks about giving 10% of our income to Him, but this is something that you have to decide for yourself, no one will pressure you to do this. It is amazing the way that when you give God gives back.



The offering goes to the salary of the pastors, the running costs of the church, to missions and those in need. For most churches 30% pastors, 30% building, 30% general expenses and 10% missions and needs. The pastors are paid a fixed salary linked to (but less than) that of teachers.



**Should you give to God?**

**What should you do if you have got nothing to give?**

**Should you give because you feel you have to or because you want to?**

The church has a trust board that manages the finances and ensures everything is accounted for. The accounts are also audited and submitted to the charities commission.