

# ***Church Is Essential!***

May 1, 2022

Americans have gone through a lot in the past two years. We have had to deal with a deadly disease, racial tension, political unrest, company closures, food shortages, and rapid inflation. All of us have been damaged, discouraged, and disconnected in the past two years. We are a tired bunch of people that just want things to get back to normal. But normal no longer exists. Everything and everyone in our country has changed in some way in the past two years.

## ***Three ways churches have changed in America in the past two years:***

1. American churches are becoming hybrid ministries.

*\*The pro to churches becoming hybrid ministries is increased outreach. The con to churches becoming hybrid ministries is decreased community.*

2. Americans are not attending church as often as they did in 2019.

*Only 2/3 of Evangelical Protestant regular churchgoers have returned to church. 12% of formerly regular churchgoers say they are done with church. - The Barna Group and Pew Research Center*

*Why are so many people not coming back to church?*

- Fear
- Laziness
- Spiritual Apathy

3. A lot of Americans no longer believe the church is essential.

## ***Ten Reasons the Church Is Essential:***

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| 1. Church is the best place to <u>worship</u> God.                              | Psalms 147:1,7; 149:1      |
| 2. Church is the best place to <u>learn</u> God's Word.                         | 2 Timothy 3:16-17          |
| 3. Church is the best place to learn how to raise <u>kids</u> .                 | Proverbs 22:6              |
| 4. Church is the best place to use your spiritual <u>gifts</u> .                | 1 Peter 4:10 NLT           |
| 5. Church is the best place to do BIG <u>ministry</u> .                         | Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12    |
| 6. Church is the best place to <u>fellowship</u> .                              | Hebrews 10:24-25           |
| 7. Church is the best place to do <u>baptism</u> and the <u>Lord's Supper</u> . | Acts 2:41; 1 Cor. 11:17-33 |
| 8. Church is the best place to keep you focused on the most <u>important</u> .  | Matthew 22:36-40; 28:18-20 |
| 9. Church is the best place to get <u>help</u> .                                | Acts 2:42-47               |
| 10. Church is the best place to find good <u>friends</u> .                      | Proverbs 17:17; 18:24      |