



I gave up on church, I am done! What's next?

Episode #153

Introduction

I. Today's Question

I gave up on church, I am done! What's next?

It is not unusual to find someone who was once a part of the church. But because of hurt, disappointment, anger and even indifference they no longer are a part. So, what is the next step?

II. The Current Reality

- a. One third of Americans claim no religious affiliation.
- b. Up to a third of Christians are no longer attending church.
- c. Those who are still attending church are struggling at address this current trend.

Scripture Hebrews 10:25

not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- d. Some believers are confused by the trend and tend to make pronouncements.**

Scripture 2 Thessalonians 2:3

Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

III. Why They Are Leaving

- a. Spiritual abuse or trauma**
- b. A focus on political issues**
- c. A focus on money**
- d. Moral failure of a spiritual leader**
- e. A lack of depth or shallowness of spirituality**
- f. Focus on the Culture wars**
- g. The embrace of an anti-science attitude**
- h. The exclusive nature of Christianity**
- i. Antagonistic to doubters and those with questions**
- j. Failure to respond to social issues as Jesus would**
- k. Church is judgmental yet hypocritical**

IV. For Those Who Stayed

- a. Recognize that people leave the church for different reasons.**
- b. Don't dismiss the person and their reasons for leaving.**
- c. Don't approach people with a "one size fits all" approach.**
- d. Listen**

e. Express love and understanding.

f. Pray

V. For Those Who Left

a. Don't give up completely on Jesus.

b. Recognize the church does a poor job reflecting Christianity.

c. Continue to process your reasons for leaving.

d. Seek out a Christian who will listen and process with you.

e. Take the chance with another group of Christians and go slow.

Conclusion