

**THE CONTRADICTION OF THE
CHURCHLESS CHRISTIAN**

1

What factors impact church attendance? How should a church body think about numbers and address declining attendance?

2

How has the use of technology (live streaming, online church, podcasts, the rise of internet-based religious teachers) impacted church attendance? What should be the church's posture towards technology?

3

How would you respond to a friend who is a professing Christian and even attends church regularly, but doesn't want to commit to church membership?

4

We can see from the New Testament that church membership was assumed to be a given for the Christian. How can we see this assumption in passages such as the appointment of elders in Acts 14:23 or Jesus' words on church discipline in Matthew 18:15-17?

5

Congregationalism and regenerate church membership (that is, the conviction that the local church is to be governed by a congregation of members who are born again, baptized believers) are distinctives of Baptist life. What connections can we make between the importance of church membership and other aspects of Baptist church practice, such as the ordinances (baptism and the Lord's Supper), church discipline, and polity (leadership models)?

6

If the church is global, why should we belong to a local church body? How does scripture connect the local church to the Great Commission?

7

Circumstances such as an illness or military deployment may prevent some from attending church. How should Christians think about church attendance when facing these kinds of challenges?

8

What does the Bible (particularly what we've seen of Acts) say about the need for community among Christians? How has belonging to a church body impacted your own life? What would be the consequences of attempting the Christian life apart from the church?

