

Question

What do I do if I don't want to attend church because I do not want to sit alone at church?

Answer

Thank you for your question. It makes a pastor's heart glad that someone is thinking seriously about their relationship with God. I'm sure you know that many people would never even think about asking such a question. They would just stop coming to church, and that would be it. I would like to encourage you to keep asking such questions your whole life before just cutting off your relationship with the Lord.

It is not easy to answer your question, because your question gives me a whole bunch of questions. Why do you have to sit alone in church? Isn't there a friend or family member who would go to church with you? Isn't there someone that you know at church that would be happy to sit with you? Why does it make you feel bad to have to sit alone? I guess the best advice I could give you is to talk to your pastor about this. Your pastor is responsible for taking care of your soul. But he can't carry out his responsibility if he doesn't know that you are struggling with this question. If you don't have a pastor, we certainly would be willing to discuss this problem with you in more detail. You could e-mail us privately at our church's e-mail address, and we will keep your information confidential.

The most important thing for you to know in answer to your question is this: In a certain sense, you can never sit alone in church. Here is what Jesus said: ***“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them”*** (Matthew 18:20). If you need to sit in church alone, please remember that Jesus is right there with you. No, you can't see him, but you can see the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper, and remember that his body and blood are there. No, you can't hear him talking to you, but when your pastor reads from the Bible and preaches a sermon that agrees with the Bible, Jesus himself is speaking to you. No, you can't whisper in Jesus' ear, but you can pray to him and he will hear you as surely as if you were whispering in his ear. Jesus has promised to be with you in church, and he will keep his promise.

The Lord's richest blessings to you as you find his answer to your question.