

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Do you go to church to hide from your sins, or to deal with your sins?

I know some people don't like mega churches, because they say that people can easily go there and hide their sins, and leave without ever dealing with their sins, talking to anyone or getting involved, which is true, in a sense. But still that is no reason to dislike mega churches. I used to belong to one, and I did not hide there, but I was involved, and it has done some wonderful things in the lives of others, and many have been saved.

Did you know that there is a mega church mentioned in the books of Acts?

† **Acts 2:40-42** *And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

3,000 now that sounds like a mega church to me. It also says that ***"And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."*** Acts 2:47b

With the addition of the those being saved in the church every day, there were very likely those who just went along with the crowd and were not saved. And in today's mega churches, I think my first statement of some people do go to these churches to hide from their sins is still true today as it was back then.

But if you think about it, they are not really hiding from their sins, but rather, they go thinking that if they go to church, that they have done their duty to God, by showing up, and they are ok with God now. Then they go out and live like hell the rest of the week and repeat their Sunday morning ritual of going to church, but never repenting of their sins. But the way they are hiding is that they will go and think that they have done their duty to God, but they never interact with people, because if they do, then they will actually be confronted with their sins.

But even in smaller churches the same can be true as well, because you can still go to a small church and hide your sins.

I have a friend, who years ago he would go to church all the time. He learned the Christian lingo and went to all the bible studies and events, but he was never saved. No one knew this, because at church and around other Christians, it's easy to imitate what they do, which he did. But the

Lord did grab a hold of him and he has been saved for years now, and this is actually part of his testimony.

But some of you reading this need to hear that testimony, because you are looking like a Christian at church and around other Christians, but you truly have not repented of your sins, and your heart and relationship are not truly with the Lord. You are what is called a hypocrite, and even though we don't like that word, what it means is that you are an Actor, and maybe a very good one, knowing all the right Christian words to say, and all the big church pastor names, and all the latest big named Christian worship artist. But inside, you are like what Jesus said to the Scribes and Pharisees.

† **Matthew 23:27** *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.*

Yeah, you look good on the outside, but inwardly you are dead, there is no real life or real joy in the Lord in your life. You go to church and church events because you like the joy you feel being around other Christians. Yet once you are away from them, the joy that they have, you can't take with you, and you feel empty inside. Because the joy you see and feel that they have, is the joy that happens only with a relationship with Jesus Christ, and knowing that you are saved, because of Jesus.

So, you can go to church to hide from your sins, or you can go to deal with your sins. But you don't have to wait until Sunday to deal with your sins and to find that ever lasting joy in Jesus. You can do it right now, and John tells us how.

† **1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Notice John does not say that if you go to church and confess your sins. No, you can do it right now where you are. Church is a place for Christians to learn and to be equipped to do the work the Lord has called us to do, and yes people do come to church and get saved. But nowhere in the bible does it say that you must go to church to get saved or go to church and say the sinners prayers.

Look how the Lord used Philip to talk to a man who was sitting in his chariot:

† **Acts 8:27-29** *So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."*

Simply, Philip shared Jesus with this man and he got saved right there in his chariot. Philip didn't tell him to go to church and listen to the message and go forward at the altar call, but rather the man wanted to be saved right there and then, and he was.

† **Acts 8:36-38** *Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.*

So the choice is yours, you can keep hiding from God, or approach Him now and confront your sins and be saved.

† **1 Thessalonians 4:7-8** *For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.*

† **Psalm 51:17** *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise.*