

## Romans 16:5

*Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.*

When you hear the word “Church” what do you think of. Now before you answer, don’t over spiritualize it with some flamboyant answer, but be honest. I know for me, when I hear the word “church” I usually associate it with a building, where a group of believers gather together to worship God and hear His word being taught. Which is not a wrong or an ungodly answer, because, face it, that is what we call a church now a days.

But we also know that it goes beyond that as we just read in today’s verse which says: **“greet the church that is in their house.”** So, it is still a gathering of believers like we think of a church today, only it was in homes instead of a church building. Also remember that churches were non existence as far as how we think of a church building today with a steeple or a cross or a dove as a symbol that it is a church building. They did have Synagogues and such, but a lot of church gatherings happened in people homes, it’s kind of like what we call a home group or home bible study’s today.

But with all that in mind, here’s a question. Why do you go to church?

- Some go to get lost in a crowd, that’s why they search out, or like Mega churches.
- Some go because the worship sounds so cool with all those instruments and great singers on stage, it really gets them into a so called “Worship experience”.
- Some go because they like the way the pastor teaches, and it’s a church like I go to that teaches the bible; book, by book, chapter by chapter and verse by verse, and is not a topical teaching each week.
- Some actually go to minister to others, they look for those in need and pray with them or talk with them or simply listen to others share what’s going on in their lives.

But looking at our list, or maybe adding the reason that you “go to church”, we need to ask ourselves, have we turned church into a building?

- ☹ The person who goes to hide, they are hiding in a building.
- ☹ The person who goes because the worship band is cool, have turned it into a theater or an event.
- ☹ The person who goes for the teaching, but never spends time in the bible reading and studying it on their own, have turned church into a person, the pastor.
- ☹ Those who go to minister to others, are doing a good thing, but is that the only time they minister to others, making it a hospital or doctor’s office. It makes me think of the old days when doctors actually made house calls, and you did not have to go to a hospital or their office to get treated (Unless it was major surgery or such) we seem to have lost that

house call mentality of going to others homes to minister to them, instead of waiting until they show up at church.

So the question for us all (me included) is, have we turned church into something it was never intended to be? Jesus told us to ***“go into all the world”***, not to go into a building.

Let’s use a car as an analogy. The only time you put a car into a building is when you get home and put it in the garage to rest, or it’s in a car repair building getting fixed or tuned up or serviced. Other than that, a car is used to go and travel and take you places to go do things, or even to that church building.

We as the Church (note the big “C” representing the Church as the people, not a building) are the cars, and yes we go home to rest after a hard days works, and we go to the church “building” to be equipped, just like a car goes to a building to be serviced. But once it leaves it’s home or the car repair building, it is still a car, it doesn’t stop being a car because it’s no longer in a garage, either resting or being serviced. In fact, once it leaves the garage, is when a car really shines and serves its purpose. People don’t know what kind of car you have or what it even looks like when it’s in the garages or out being serviced. But once you take it out, that’s when all see your car.

Just like when we leave our homes or church building, that does not make us stop being “the Church” just because we are outside of the church building, No, that actually is when the Church is seen the most, and when we show Jesus to others. Yet, people will never see Jesus if we lock Him up in our church buildings, they see Jesus when the **Church** is outside of the building.

† **Mark 16:15 (NLT2)** *And then he told them, **“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”***

† **John 8:12 (NLT2)** *Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, **“I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”***