

theChristianatheist

I Believe in God but Don't Like the Church

WARM UP

If you could eliminate one thing from your daily schedule, what would it be and why?

SET IT UP

According to some reports, 21,000 people give up on church every week. There are a lot of reasons people walk away from church. Some say, "I'm not giving up on God, I'm giving up on organized religion." Is it possible to love God but hate the church? Let's talk about it.

CHAT IT UP

1. **What do you love about going to church?**
2. **Was there ever a time you were disappointed or disillusioned with the church? If so, why?**
3. **Read Acts 2:42-47. What do you see these Christians doing? Summarize each verse in your own words.**
4. **What strikes you about how the early church operated?**
5. **What difference does being engaged with your church make for you?**
6. **If someone said, "I believe in God but I don't like going to church." How could you lovingly respond?**
7. **Group Exercise: Split up into smaller groups and pray for people you would like to see come to church soon.**

WRAP IT UP

We can't be a Christian and an Atheist at the same time. But we can drift into an atheist lifestyle when we live like God doesn't exist. Churches are full of imperfect people. But that's the beauty of it. Imperfect people belong in God's family together. Here's what you need to remember: You must follow Jesus for yourself, but you can't follow Him by yourself.

LEADER TIPS

- Be prepared to have your group split up into smaller groups for prayer at the end of today's discussion.