

The Practice!

It is estimated that a majority of Americans claim to be Christians, but a very small number regularly attend church and still less who practice a lifestyle of the principles of Christianity. I don't know what the statistics would be, but of the people in America who claim to be Christians probably less than 20% attend any kind of church at all.

This is crazy, isn't it? If a person does not practice his Christianity he is not a Christian. It is like the apostle John said about righteousness: ***"Dear children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil..."*** (1 John 3:7-8). If a person claiming to be a Christian lives like an unbeliever, he is an unbeliever! Remember Jesus said, ***"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."*** (Matthew 7:21).

The Holy Spirit, through the apostle Paul, tells us that the church is the body of Jesus Christ. Do I need to show you the passages that state that? Eternal life is celebrated inside the body of Christ. It is the vehicle in which God carries His people to glory. This first principle fact is celebrated each time we take the bread representing the body of Christ when we take the Lord's Supper.

Additionally by definition the "church" in the Greek is "a called out assembly." A person who does not attend church regularly is not in the church by his own absence. If you don't assemble you are not a member of the church by definition.

But being a practicing Christian means more than just assembling with the church. God adds the saved to the church (or more properly to the assembly) according to Acts 2:47. When God adds the saved to the assembly of the saved it follows that the saved regularly assemble. But there is more to being a Christian than just meeting together as important as assembling is. Remember Matthew 7:21 Jesus reminds us that the response of our faith is following the will of the Father. In the context there were some who were prophesying in Jesus' Name, casting out demons, and doing many mighty works who are not recognized as Christians and even condemned. Our practice must be according to the dictates of the Father's will. Therefore, a person cannot be a Christian unless he practices his Christianity.

God bless your practice. Being a Christian is to be a disciple—a follower of Jesus adopting His practices!