



STATE OF THE CHURCH

January 2024

MISSION

To Glorify God
by making disciples
of Jesus Christ.

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

-Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)



PREMISE:
JESUS IS KING
OVER EVERYTHING.

Rulers, nations, families, organizations, businesses, and individuals are all subject to Christ

Disciple-making is a worldwide crusade to bring the nations into subjection to the rightful King who is already on the throne. The gospel response involves both belief in Christ's atonement and affirmation of His Lordship (Romans 10:9-10). Thus, there is no neutral ground, and the Church is an offensive force more than a defensive one.

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

-Matthew 16:13-19 (ESV)


(See [Matt. 18:15-20](#) as this authority is given to the Church, not to an individual)



GLOBAL STATE OF THE CHURCH

- Christianity is the world's largest religion (2.5 billion)
- Christianity is growing at a rate of 1.17% (faster than the 0.84% population growth).
- The Gospel is spreading. The Church is increasingly spread throughout the world and not relegated primarily to the West.
- There are less unevangelized people in the world! In 1900, more than half of the world's population (54.3%) was unevangelized. That has now fallen to 28%.
- Projections indicate that there will be over 3.3 billion Christians worldwide by 2050 (31% of the global population).
- Christianity grows by procreation and disciple-making!

Sources: <https://research.lifeway.com/2022/01/31/7-encouraging-trends-of-global-christianity-in-2022/> and <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2015/04/02/christians/>



AFFIRMATION:
CHRIST IS BUILDING
HIS CHURCH, AND
HELL CAN'T STOP HIM

This warrants boldness and optimism.

Jesus has declared His authority (Matt. 28:18) and established the means of warfare: gospel proclamation (Matt. 16:16). Moreover, He has decreed our success from the beginning (Matt. 16:18).

It is a foolish thing to despair when the God who declares the end from the beginning has decreed our victory and the efficacy of His work is displayed across the millennia. Be bold. Make Disciples.

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

-Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)



GREAT COMMISSION

Go

Action is built into the great commission.

Make Disciples

We are to make followers of Jesus by the proclamation of the gospel (Matt. 16:16-18, Rom. 10:17) who repent and believe (Rom. 10:9-10).

Baptize and Teach Obedience

Baptism is the sign of the covenant, and obedience is the fruit. Don't wink at sin and call it "winsome evangelism."

OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST IS THE FRUIT OF A LIFE IN CHRIST

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

-John 14:45

OBEDIENCE REVEALS WHO IS HONORED AS LORD

Individual

Do you tear down the idols of your heart and obey the commands of Christ? Do love God and love your neighbor? (Mark 12:30-31)

Church

Do we love one another? (1 John 4:7-8) Are the ordinances properly administered? Is Scripture taught and obeyed? Is sin disciplined or excused? (Matt. 18, 1 Cor. 5)

Family

Are decisions made according to biblical principles? Does the love of Christ abound? Are children raised to follow Christ? (Prov. 22:6)

Nation

Are laws made and enforced in keeping with God's Law? Are rulers a terror to evil or to righteousness? (Romans 13) Is blasphemy punished or permitted? (Lev. 24:16)

HOW THE CHURCH IS BUILT UP



MEANS OF GRACE

Scripture (Heb. 4:12),
Fellowship (1 John 1:7),
Singing (Eph. 5:19-21),
Baptism (Matt. 28:19-20),
Communion (1 Cor. 11:23-24)



EVANGELISM

Faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ. The gospel must be proclaimed (Rom. 10:17)



FAITHFUL FAMILIES

Family is the foundational unit of society. Strong families lead to strong churches (Eph. 5, 1 Tim. 3, Prov. 22:6, etc.)

“...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
-Matt. 16:18b

The background of the slide features a close-up of an American flag on the left side, with its stars and stripes partially visible. To the right of the flag is a vertical wooden plank with a natural grain and texture. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

STATE OF THE CHURCH IN THE USA

- 75% of those surveyed said they thought religion was losing its influence on American life.
- Only 10-25% of an average congregation tithes regularly.
- 80% of church givers have zero debt
- Although nearly 50% of people attended church weekly as a child, only 20% attend weekly as adults.
- Most churches are losing 10-15% of their people annually.
- 72% of Gen Z respondents who don't go to church also doubt the existence of a God.
- Millennials are coming back to Church. Since 2019, their church attendance has increased by 18%.
- The average U.S. congregation sees 65 people gather each week.
- 48% of evangelicals deny God's immutability.
- 65% of evangelicals deny that people are born in sin.

Sources: <https://reachrightstudios.com/church-statistics-2023/> and <https://thestateoftheology.com> and <https://donorbox.org/nonprofit-blog/church-statistics> and <https://research.lifeway.com/2021/10/20/small-churches-continue-growing-but-in-number-not-size/>



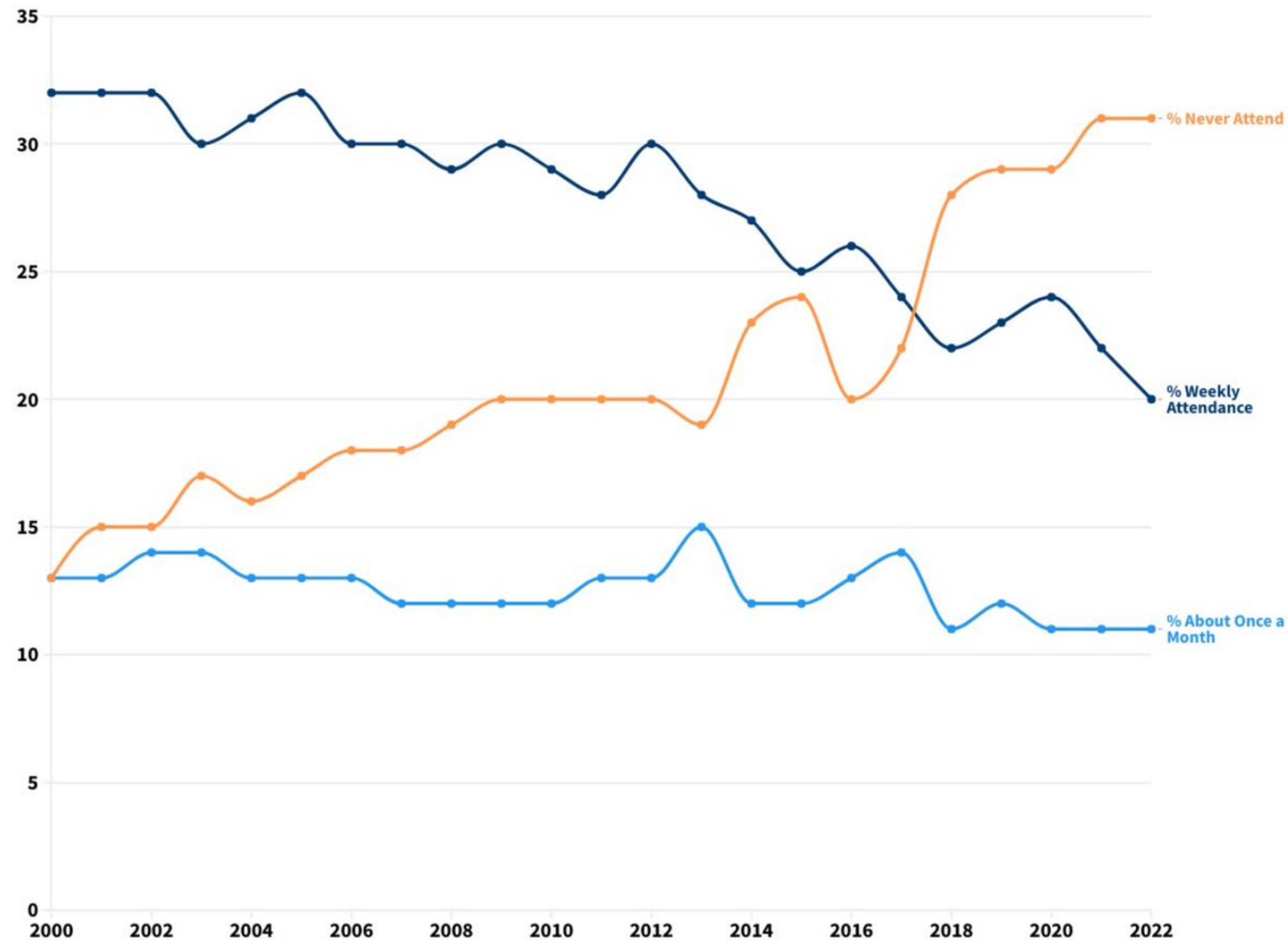
STATE OF THE CHURCH IN THE USA

- 48% of evangelicals deny God's immutability.
- 26% of “evangelicals” deny the Inerrancy of Scripture (up from 17% in 2016)
- 38% of “evangelicals” deny the objective truth of Christianity (up from 32% in 2016)
- 65% of “evangelicals” deny the reality of the sin nature (original sin)

Source: <https://thestateoftheology.com>

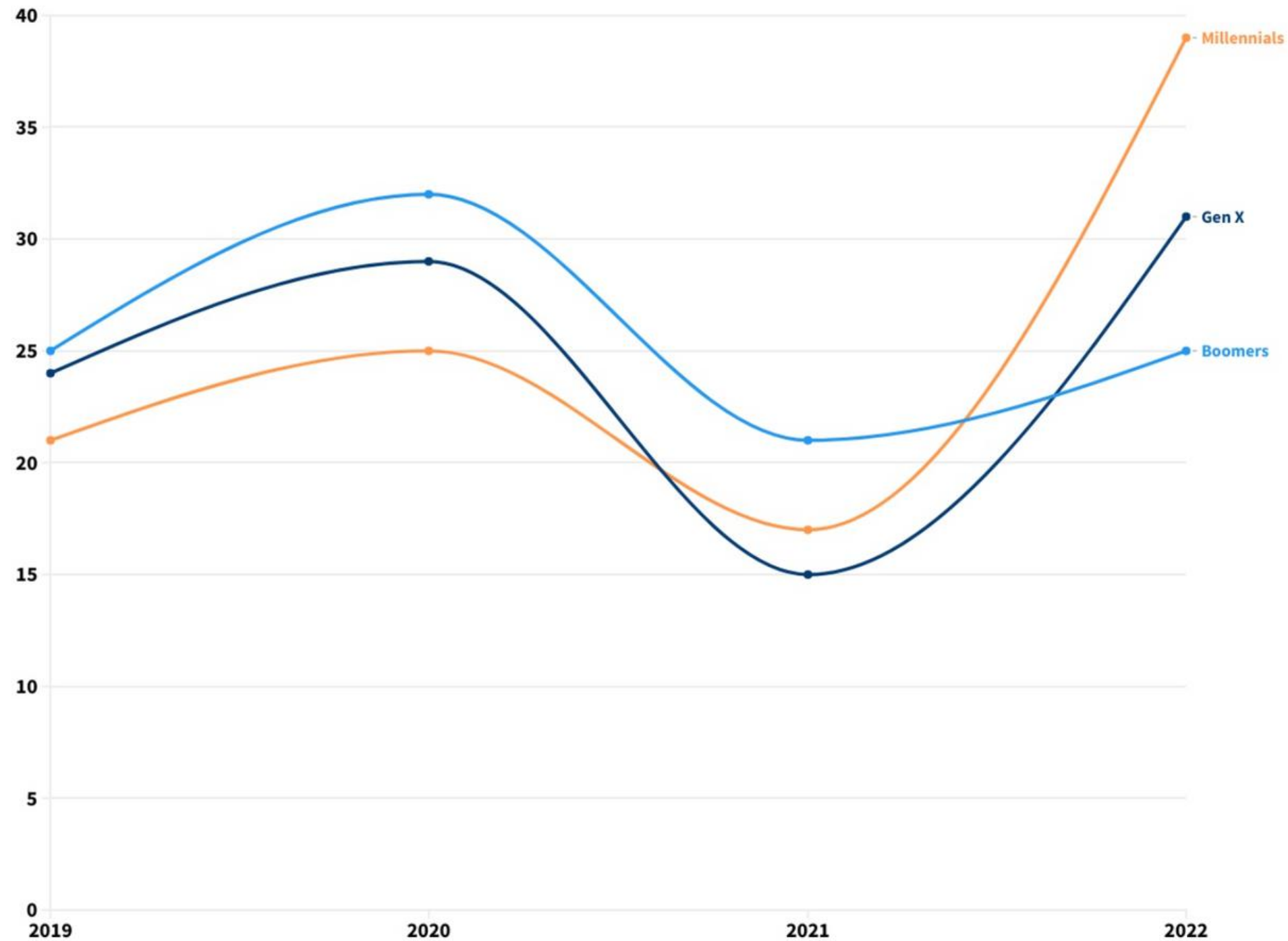
WHAT PERCENT OF CHURCH MEMBERS ATTEND REGULARLY

There has been a significant decline in church attendance since the turn of the 21st century, according to multiple surveys of church attendance from several research institutions. The chart below made with data from [Gallup's recent survey](#) illustrates the trend:



WHAT PERCENT OF MILLENNIALS ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES

39% of Millennials report attending church on a weekly basis, according to Barna's recent [State of the Church](#) report. This is a significant increase over years prior and places them at a much higher rate of attendance than Generation X and even the Boomer generation, which had previously been more faithfully in attendance than their younger counterparts.



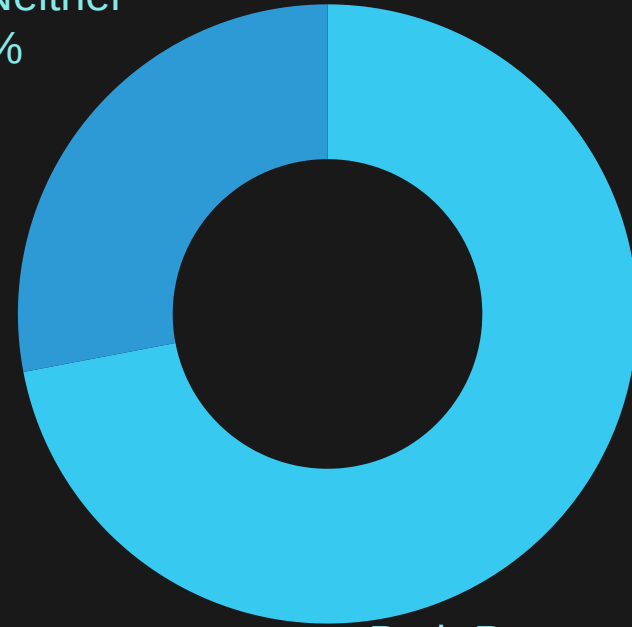


Marriage and Church

- **Overall divorce rate: 33% (not 50%)**
- **People who claim to be Christian but are not active in the Church are 20% MORE likely to divorce than the general population.**
- **Christians who are active in church are 27-50% LESS likely to divorce than the general population.**

“active conservative protestants who attend church regularly are actually 35% less likely to divorce than those who have no religious preferences.” -Dr. Brad Wilcox

One or Neither
28%



Both Parents in Church and Bible Study
72%

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO FAITHFULLY ATTEND CHURCH AS ADULTS BASED ON PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SUNDAY CHURCH AND BIBLE STUDY

93%

Probability of household conversion if Father is the first to believe.

Number of Children who become faithful worshippers if the father does not attend church regularly.

1/50

DO WHAT THE ENEMY HATES.

PATRIARCHY MATTERS

*The righteous who walks in his integrity— blessed are
his children after him! -Prov. 20:7*



RESTORATION STATE OF THE CHURCH

STRENGTHS

- This church loves one another like no other church I've seen.
- This church takes doctrine seriously and is growing in faith and knowledge of Christ.

WEAKNESSES

- We are not strong in evangelism.
- Sporadic commitment to discipleship groups.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Pastor freed to do more.
- Equipping through Underground Seminary
- Millennial church interest.
- (see "threats")

THREATS

- Ohio has legalized child murder and limited parental rights.
- Inflation, taxation, and political unrest.



RESTORATION MINISTRY

- **Priority:** Lord's Day Gathering
- **Equipping:** Underground Seminary
- **Benevolence:** Meeting needs in the church.
- **Discipleship:** Men's and Women's Bible Studies
- **Outreach:** Trail Life and AHG
- **Missions:** Hungry Church and other missionary Support

BE LIKE BONIFACE: PREACH THE
GOSPEL AND DESTROY IDOLS

A close-up photograph of a person's hands wearing brown leather gloves. One hand is pointing to a map on a piece of fabric, while the other hand holds a magnifying glass over the map. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green and brown foliage.

STRATEGY

Make Disciples

Gather together, teach Scripture, sing hymns, fellowship, memorize catechism, learn doctrine, take communion, baptize, etc.

Get Married. Have Lots of Kids.

Get married, have children, do family worship.

Homeschool

Don't let pagans disciple your kids.

Bold Culture Takeover

Start businesses, schools, and organizations. Run for office. Smash idols in the public square.

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

-Matthew 16:13-19 (ESV)

(See [Matt. 18:15-20](#) as this authority is given to the Church, not to an individual)



HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER:

Be a Christian

Believe in Christ's atoning death and resurrection, and declare Him your Lord (Rom. 10:9-10). Get baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19-20)

Affirm our Statement of Faith

See "[Simplified Statement of Faith](#)" on the church website.

Attend Restoration Faithfully

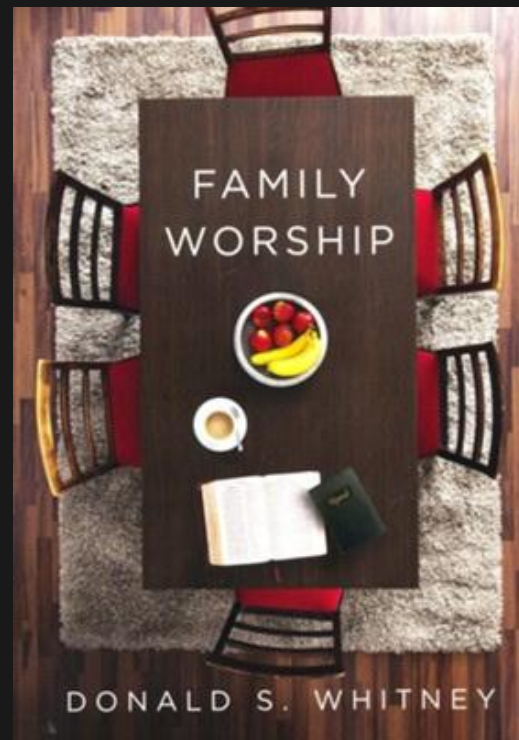
Be a part of our body of believers for at least three months.

Agree to the Member Commitment

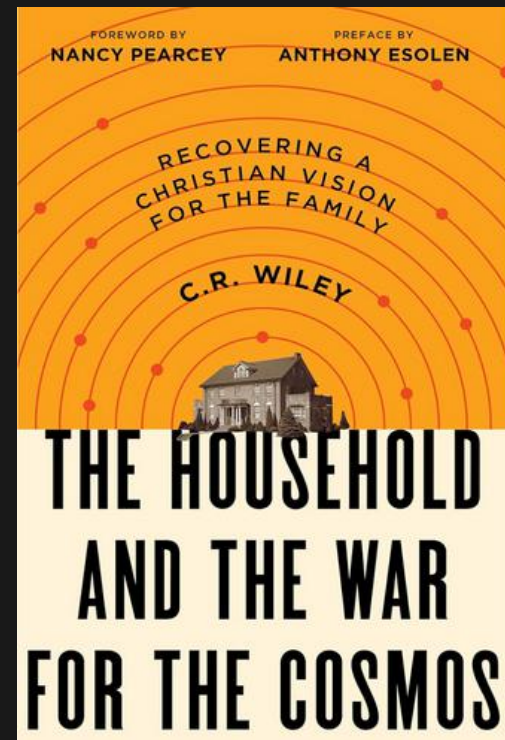
Meet with an Elder and commit to the member agreement.

Come Before the Church to Be Welcomed

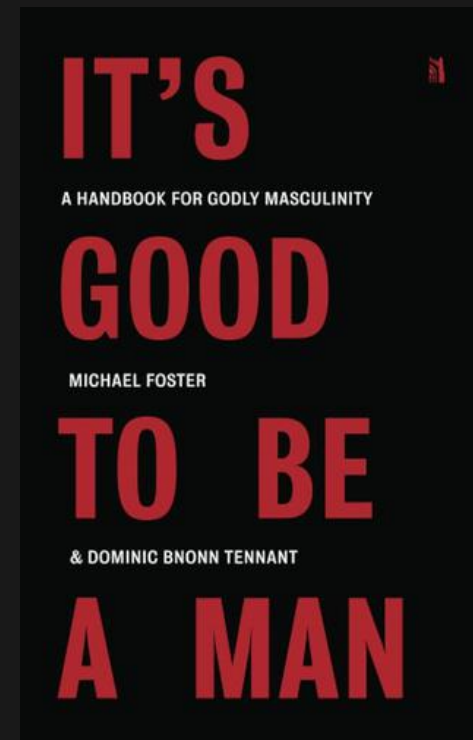
RESOURCES



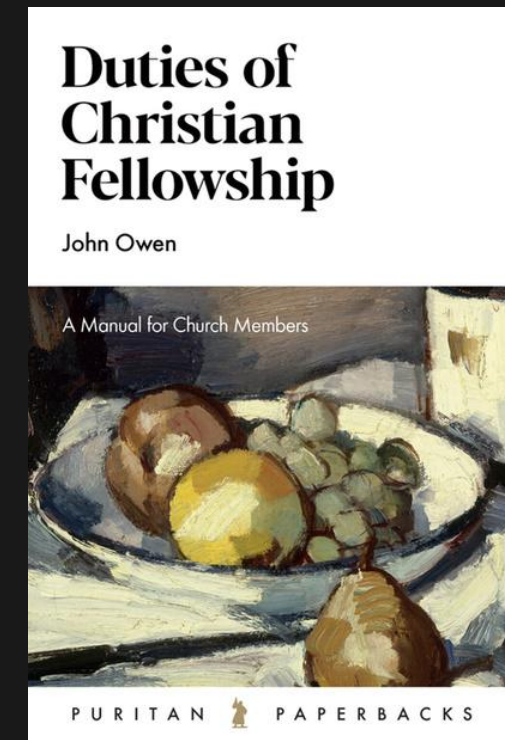
FAMILY WORSHIP
by Donald Whitney



**THE HOUSEHOLD
AND THE WAR FOR
THE COSMOS**
by C.R. Wiley



**IT'S GOOD TO BE
A MAN**
by Michael Foster



**DUTIES OF
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**
by John Owen

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Having been brought by God's grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we now, depending upon the Holy Spirit, establish this covenant with one another.

That our actions and life will glorify God in all things. In all we do, we will aim to glorify and enjoy the God of our salvation, from whom and through whom and to whom are all things: to Him be all glory forever! (1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 11:36)

Maintaining unity. We will eagerly maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace by walking together in love and in the Spirit and by putting away all bitterness, anger, and injurious speech. (Eph. 4:3; Gal. 5:16, 25; Eph. 4:29, 31)

Extending forgiveness. With humility and gentleness, patience and love, we will be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us. (Eph. 4:1-2; Luke 17:3; Col. 3:13; 1 Thess. 5:11; 1 Pet. 1:22)

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Caring for one another as Christ cares for us. We will carry each other's burdens, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. (Gal. 6:2; Rom. 12:15)

Discipling our Children. We will train our children in the instruction of the Lord, seeking to walk in a way that adorns the gospel of Christ before our family, friends, and neighbors (Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; 1 Pet. 3:1).

Walking in the Spirit, growing spiritual fruit. We will strive to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, as we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. (John 15, Gal. 5:22-24; Titus 2:12; 1 Pet. 1:14)

Faithfully gathering to minister to one another. We will not neglect to gather together, but will support and treasure the biblical preaching of the whole counsel of God, the faithful observance of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the loving exercise of church discipline. (Heb. 10:25; 2 Tim. 4:2; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 11:26; Matt 18:17; 1 Cor. 5:13)

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Giving generously. We will contribute cheerfully and generously to the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the advancement of the gospel both to our neighbors and the nations. (Matt. 28:19; Luke 12:33; 2 Cor. 9:7)

Making Disciples. We will faithfully proclaim the gospel of Christ's atoning death and resurrection, faithfully making disciples together, reaching as many people and people groups as possible (Matthew 28:18-20).

Parting well. We will, when we move from this place, unite as soon as possible with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

In all these things, we rely on our God who has made a new and everlasting covenant with us, saying:

“They shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. . . . I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. I will rejoice in doing them good... with all my heart and all my soul.” (Jer. 32:38-41)

In and because of Jesus we pray, Amen.



Cyprian of Carthage
Treatise on the Unity of the Church, 6
(AD 251)

“The spouse of Christ cannot be adulterous; she is uncorrupted and pure. She knows one home; she guards with chaste modesty the sanctity of one couch. She keeps us for God. She appoints the sons whom she has born for the kingdom. Whoever is separated from the Church and is joined to an adulteress, is separated from the promises of the Church; nor can he who forsakes the Church of Christ attain to the rewards of Christ. He is a stranger; he is profane; he is an enemy. He can no longer have God for his Father, who has not the Church for his mother.”



BECOME A MEMBER

Share info that resonates

Visual charts make data and numbers on presentations interesting and memorable.